THE PORTRAIT BOOK OF THE KINGS AND QUEENS OF GREAT BRITAIN

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THE PORTRAIT BOOK OF THE KINGS AND QUEENS OF GREAT BRITAIN.

1066-1911

Done in Commemoration of the Coronation of
THEIR MAJESTIES
KING GEORGE V. & QUEEN MARY

WITH SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES ON THE CEREMONY

EDITED BY T. LEMAN HARE
THE HISTORICAL AND CORONATION NOTES BY CHARLES EYRE PASCOE

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NOTE.

The Series of Portraits reproduced in Colours are from rare Prints in the British Museum, and from Originals in the National and Private Collections.

The Text accompanying each is compiled from well-known Authorities.

"Coronation Notes" are based on Official and other Archives; notably the "Regal Records" of J. R. Planché, F.S.A., sometime Somerset Herald, collated with Information of later date; "Historic Memorials of Westminster Abbey," by the late Dean of Westminster, A. P. Stanley, D.D.; and the Report of the Royal Commission on the same subject.

The Whole is Designed to afford a Useful Manual for Reference purposes, not less than of Information respecting the Coronation of King George the Fifth, June 22nd, 1911.

T. LEMAN HARE.
CHARLES EYRE PASCOE.

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YESTERDAY, TO-DAY, AND TO-MORROW.

READING a little book of essays, my eye chanced to fall on the following quotation from a speech by a distinguished statesman: "I do not in the least want to know" (said he) "what happened in the past, except as it enables me to see my way more clearly through what is happening in the Present."

Were any excuse needed for publishing these Regal Records, every one of which has reference to a king or queen crowned at Westminster, it would not be necessary to look for it elsewhere than in the remark quoted. We should be satisfied to find it there, hardly less than in the interest by Englishmen everywhere felt in the Coronation of King George V. and Queen Mary.

That which took place aforetime in the crowning of our kings at Westminster, from William the Norman's time to our own, was more or less based on ancient usage and precedent, as is the case now. In brief, for authority and information, and for a right understanding of what takes place at a Coronation, we must have recourse to history; we must fall back on what "happened" or took place in the Past, just as the great officers of state, officially charged with the arrangements of the ceremony, themselves have to do.

History, rightly read, is one great, unbroken drama, comprising, it is true, a vast number of separate books, acts, scenes, incidents, episodes, what you will; but still one great, unbroken, and, indeed, interminable drama, no part of which can be rightly understood without reference to the other parts which come before and after it. In order clearly to see what is taking place to-day in the state-business of King George's Coronation—the preliminary Court of Claims, for example, the King's Proclamation of the Event, the State Processions on the day itself, etc., etc., all arranged according to precedent, save in the last particular: in order, we say, the more clearly to see and understand what is taking place on the present occasion of the King's Coronation, we must inform ourselves of what took place in the Past. We must do that, or we cannot hope to be of service in informing others.

The purpose of this History is to act in some sort as guide to those who are interested in this subject, and they are to be numbered in thousands of British birth all the world over.

One other purpose there was in view in compiling it. A Coronation is, after all, an event of a day only. It happens but rarely—hardly more than once, happily for the King's Majesty, or at most twice in the life-time of any of us. Sixty-four years elapsed between the crowning of Queen Victoria and that of her son his late Majesty, King Edward VII., of illustrious memory.

YESTERDAY, TO-DAY, AND TO-MORROW.

The contents of this book will, it may be hoped, be found of more than mere passing interest. Its series of Portraits, together with their collateral matter, entitle it to be classed among Handy-books of Reference, useful to any, but especially acceptable, one would say, to youthful students of History; to the boys and girls in our schools, large and small, Public, County, or private schools, not to add to those who have the charge over them, there as well as at home. It is, in fact, a Portrait-Book of our Kings and Queens—portraits in every case fitly chosen and well authenticated—and as such it might well be allotted the little space it will occupy next "History" on the book-shelf. Many a time have I myself sought such a record; but, alas! fruitlessly. For which reason I propose to offer permanent book-shelf space to my own copy, and to provide it with more durable clothing—a suggestion I venture to make to others.

"The knowledge of History is extremely necessary," wrote Lord Chesterfield to his son; "because, as it informs us of what was done by other people, in other times, it instructs us what to do in the like cases. Besides, as it is often a subject of conversation, it is a shame to be ignorant of it"—at all events in respect of that chapter of it which has to do with the ancestry, accession, coronation, and reigns of England's Kings and Queens.

CORONATION MEDAL OF MARY I.

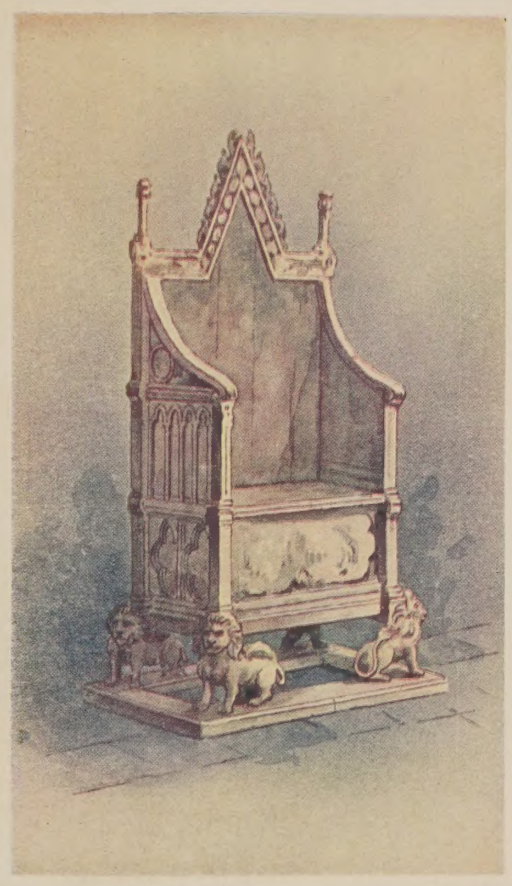
Crown of King, from Contemporary Coins

WILLIAM I. 1066-1087.

"The Norman conqu'ring all by might"; a descendant of King Canute (or Cnut), born 1027; son of Robert, Count of Normandy; variously known in history as "the Bastard," "the Conqueror," and "the Great." The ancestor of that line of kings who have ruled in England for over 800 years. "As far as mortal man can guide the course of things when he is gone, the course of our national history since William's day has been the result of William's character and of William's acts. . . . He may worthily take his place as William the Great, alongside of Alexander, Constantine and Charles" (*Freeman*).

In 1051, Duke William visited the English court of Edward the Confessor, and received, as he afterwards asserted, a promise of succession to the crown from that king, at whose death (1066), nevertheless, Harold II. succeeded. The same year William invaded England with his army of Normans, landing at Pevensey, in Sussex. At the battle of Hastings he defeated the English under Harold, that king being slain on a spot marked afterwards by the high-altar of Battle Abbey. Marching upon London by way of Canterbury, "the royal city," after various lesser engagements, and the surrender of its fellow royal city of Winchester from the widowed queen of the Confessor, William the Norman received the submission of the capital, and at Christmas-tide, 1066, the crown at the hands of Archbishop Ealdred at Westminster, now the Abbey.

A man of gigantic stature, great strength, desperate bravery, and indomitable will, "more dignified and strong than any of his predecessors," and "a very wise man" withal, the character of William the Conqueror is perhaps best expressed in his refusal of fealty to the court of Rome. He held his dominions from God, and by his own sword, and was answerable to none. Reigning for 21 years, he died at Rouen, and lies buried in the church of St. Stephen at Caen, in the land of his birth. The Keep, or White Tower, in the Tower of London, is a memorial of the Conqueror's reign.



THE CORONATION CHAIR.

WILLIAM I.

From an engraved portrait in the British Museum.

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Crown of King, from Contemporary Coins

William II. 1087-1100.

Third son of William the Conqueror; surnamed Rufus; born 1057; crowned at Westminster, September 27th, 1087. There was something of the same stamp of greatness in the son as in the father—magnanimity as was said—and the like kingly self-reliance. In energy and strength of will the two were well matched, though hardly so in moral grandeur; in that respect, the father was greater than the more violent, tyrannical, unkind, and ungenerous son.

Westminster Hall is a mere "bed-chamber" of the palace in comparison of what William the Red had intended to build. He was that king who was not to be delayed in meeting an enemy by a storm at sea. Why should winds and waves hinder? He had never heard of a King perishing by shipwreck. Sailors, truly, might drown; but a King—never! "Fealty I have never willed to do, nor do I will to do it now," the father had written to Pope Gregory VII. The Red King also quarrelled with the Church. Of the same type of men, father and son; stout of heart and strong of purpose; born rulers of men.

During nearly the whole of his reign Rufus had to contend for his life, as well as his throne, against incessant conspiracies of the Norman barons, and it was only by the aid of the Anglo-Danish population of England, and by carrying the war into the Norman home of his rebellious vassals, that he was able to maintain himself at all. But he did so, and not only crushed every rebellion at home, but made stronger his holding in France.

To his florid complexion and yellow hair he was indebted for his epithet of Rufus. He had a thorough hatred and contempt, we are told, "for all the human apparatus of religion," so that it was written of him by a contemporary chronicler, William of Malmesbury, that "he feared God but little—man not at all." At the age of forty-three he was killed by accident (as is supposed) while hunting in the New Forest, and lies buried at Winchester.

Crown of King, from the Great Seal of Henry I.

Henry I. 1100-1135.

Beauclerc, or the Scholar, brother of William Rufus; born 1068; crowned August 5th, 1100; married (1) Matilda, daughter of Malcolm, King of Scots; (2) Adelais of Louvain; made peace with his elder brother, Robert, Duke of Normandy, 1101; invaded Normandy four years later, defeated his brother, took him prisoner, and sent him to England. Betrothed his daughter Matilda to the Emperor Henry V. of Germany, 1109; challenged by the French King Louis VI., 1117, over whom he was victorious; and was in peaceful possession of Normandy, 1129. Such are the leading historical facts of Henry's reign. He had the misfortune to lose his eldest son, William "the Ætheling," and two others of his children, together with 180 of his nobility, by the wreck of "the White Ship," in crossing the Channel from Normandy.

He was spoken of, after his death, by many of his English subjects as "the great King Henry," revered by some for three good gifts: sagacity, success, and wealth; by others held of ill fame for three gross vices: avarice, wantonness, and cruelty.

"By a decisive English victory on Norman soil, he avenged the shame of Hastings." The conquered duchy became a dependency of the English crown. For a quarter of a century Henry I. was more or less occupied in crushing the revolts and meeting the unceasing hostilities of the French. "In England, however, all was peace." "God give him the peace he loved," wrote the Archbishop of Rouen from King Henry's death-bed. His body was brought over to England and buried in the Abbey of St. Mary, which he had founded at Reading.

When to some extent relieved from the restless anxieties begotten of Normandy, he set himself energetically to work at home, to realise the promises which he had held forth in charters not a few in the early part of his reign. "Every part of the kingdom, and every branch of the government, local as well as imperial, felt the firm touch of Henry's well-directed hand."

WILLIAM II. (RUFUS).

From an engraved portrait in the British Museum.

HENRY I. (BEAUCLERC).

From an engraved portrait in the British Museum.

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Crown of King, from Contemporary Authority

STEPHEN. 1135-1154.

Of Blois, son of the Conqueror's daughter Adela, who married Stephen, a Count of Blois. Born 1105, and brought up at the English court. He claimed as nearest male heir, save his brother, of the Conqueror's blood—his cousin, the son of Robert, being dead. This, supported by his personal popularity; alike courteous and affable; of a bright and genial disposition, and kindly heart; brought the citizens to his side when he appeared at the gates of London to urge his doubtful claim to the throne. Crowned, December 26th, 1135.

"Undismayed by the absence of the hereditary counsellors of the Crown, London's Aldermen and wise-men gathered together at the folk-moot, and these providing at their own will for the good of the realm, unanimously resolved to choose a king." Stephen was their choice. They swore to defend him with money and arms. He, on his part, swore to do his best for the good government, defence, and tranquillity of the realm. For his oath's sake, and the kingdom's sake, there is little reason for doubt that he intended well at the outset, and hoped to prove himself successful; which he was not.

The nineteen years of King Stephen's reign "are years of a misrule and disorder unknown in our history" (*John Richard Green*). Stephen had counted without the barons of England, one of whom, Robert, Earl of Gloucester, half brother of Matilda, daughter of Henry I., raised the standard of revolt. The civil war resulting became "a mere chaos of pillage and bloodshed," the like of which England had never yet known. That war had its origin, be it added, in Henry I.'s daughter Matilda's (better known as the Empress Maude of Germany) claim to the English crown.

Anarchy within his realm notwithstanding, Stephen was not an unpopular king. The people at large had heavy complaints to urge against his neglect of their interests; as had the barons against his weakness and prodigality. But there was a general disposition among all classes, we are told, to like and to sympathise with him. He lived to the age of fifty, and although twice made prisoner, and treated with some severity, died in his bed, and was buried at Feversham, the burial-place of his Queen, Matilda, who predeceased him.

Henry II. 1154-1189.

Crown of King, from Effigy at Fontevrault

First of the Plantagenets. Grandson of Henry I., by the marriage of Matilda, that king's daughter, with Geoffrey, Count of Anjou and Maine. Born 1133. Some chroniclers say thrice crowned: at London, December 19th, 1154; four years later at Lincoln; and the year following at Worcester; a king who could not only govern, but who determined to make his authority felt throughout the kingdom. Of the like strength of will as his ancestors of the Norman line; of ceaseless energy—"he never sits down; he is always on his legs from morning till night," is recorded of him: a learned king likewise; of clear perception of what were wise and what unwise to be done in given circumstances; a good judge of men's ability, with the power of turning that ability to account in affairs of government.

"Great knowledge," had he, "of the ideas of others, and of the results of ideas and systems in past times." In brief, King to the core was this second Henry. His reign "initiated the rule of law." The fabric of our judicial system, including the true origin of trial by jury as now practised, dates from "the Assize of Clarendon" (1166).

Every schoolboy has read of Henry's great controversy with the papal power, and of the foul murder of Archbishop Thomas à Becket before the altar in Canterbury Cathedral; of the imprisonment of Queen Eleanor; the tale of "Fair Rosamond," the king's concubine; of his eldest son Henry being crowned king of England during the father's reign; of how he did unkingly penance at Becket's tomb; took the King of Scotland prisoner, and obliged him to give up the independency of his crown; and of his strained relations with his sons. The rebellion of one, the successive deaths of two others, and a conspiracy in which his youngest and best-loved joined, brought the father's life with sorrow to the grave. He is said to have "died with grief at the altar cursing his sons"—one of the mock-pearls of history. "Let things go as they will," said he, lying down to die: much the same remark as the "vanity of vanities; all is vanity or vexation of spirit" of him who reigned King in Jerusalem. Henry II., at the age of fifty-eight, cared no more for himself or the world. He lies buried at Fontevrault, the greatest prince this of his time, for wisdom, virtue, and abilities.

STEPHEN (OF BLOIS).
From an engraved portrait in the British Museum

HENRY II. (PLANTAGENET).
From an engraved portrait in the British Museum

Crown of King, from Effigy at Fontevrault

Richard I. 1189-1199.

Of the Lion Heart. Son of Henry II. Born 1157 at Oxford. Crowned at Westminster September 3rd, 1189. The year following set out on the Crusade, leaving England without a ruler for nearly four years. Returning home, he was taken prisoner at a village inn near Vienna by Leopold, Duke of Austria, his bitter antagonist in the Holy Land, and by him was delivered up to his feudal superior the Emperor Henry VI., who appraised his prisoner's liberty at a sum not far short of £100,000. Such sum duly paid, Richard of the Lion Heart reappeared in his kingdom (1194); not without significant warning. "The devil is broken loose; take care of yourself" wrote the French king to Earl John, brother of him who was King Richard devoted to the game of war.

Notwithstanding this frequent absence from his kingdom, it was, on the whole, fairly well governed, according to the fashion of the times, by trusted counsellors in Church and State, of whom William of Longchamp, Bishop of Ely, sometime Justiciar and Papal Legate, was chief. "Heavy taxation" was the universal complaint of the English people—not by a long way the last complaint of that kind to be found in their history.

Richard I. was "a magnificent animal" . . . "a great general and a great engineer, who could not only fight but plan campaigns"; a master, in a word, of the art, science, craft, and subtlety of war. "He had power of quick observation and fairly good judgment, and listened to good advisers." He is credited, moreover, with being "devout," as became one who warred against Turks, infidels, and heretics; albeit he confessed to not a little the reverse of spiritual mindedness.

Though lacking his father's administrative ability, Richard I., we gather, was far from being a mere soldier. "A love of adventure, a pride in sheer physical strength, here and there a romantic generosity, jostled roughly with the craft, the unscrupulousness, the violence of his race; but he was at heart a statesman, cool and patient in the execution of his plans as he was bold in their conception." Killed at the siege of Chalus, near Limoges, in Normandy, he, like his father, lies buried at Fontevrault.

Crown of King, from Effigy, Worcester Cathedral

JOHN. 1199-1216.

Sansterre or Lackland. Fifth son of Henry II.; born 1166. Crowned May 27th, 1199. "Without dispute the worst of the English kings," the actuating principle of whose life was selfishness, and that "in the narrowest and lowest sense of the term," descending to ignominious depths of baseness. Thus the verdict of History. 'Tis an ill wind that blows none good, whether in the case of nations or individuals. The Great Charter discussed, agreed to and signed at Runnymede in a single day (June 15th, 1215, one year before the king's death), might be said to represent the eradication politically, by armed barons, of that lowest and basest form of selfishness which proved the curse of England for nearly the whole of King John's reign. "Foul as it is, hell itself is defiled by the fouler presence of John." Thus the terrible verdict of contemporaries.

"Forasmuch," spake the Archbishop at his crowning; "forasmuch, as we see him to be prudent and vigorous, we all, after invoking the Holy Spirit's grace, for his merits, no less than his royal blood, have with one consent chosen him for our king": ungrateful son, treacherous brother, mean and unworthy husband, suspected murderer of Arthur, son of his elder brother Geoffrey, cruel and vindictive, "an evil man without shame," who "seemed to find pleasure in the invectives with which he was loaded." The character of this prince is little else than a complication of vices.

"Not content with inflicting the most grievous injuries on the honour of the highest families in the land, he exulted in parading his infamy. . . . It was this conduct, far more than any acts of feudal oppression, that enrolled against him that phalanx of Barons, to whose exertions, guided by the wiser and nobler counsels of the Primate Langton, we owe the Magna Charta of our Constitution." The lowest depth of his sovereign baseness was reached when he surrendered his crown to the Papal legate. John died at Newark, and lies buried in Worcester Cathedral.

RICHARD I. (CŒUR DE LION).
From an engraved portrait in the British Museum.

JOHN (LACKLAND).
From an engraved portrait in the British Museum.

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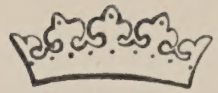

Henry III.

Crown of King, from Effigy, Westminster Abbey

1216-1272.

Son of John. Succeeded to the throne at the age of nine. Declared himself of full age in 1227; meanwhile was under guardianship. Crowned at Gloucester, October 28th, 1216; received homage from Alexander of Scotland at Northampton, 1218; crowned again at Westminster, 1219. "The weakest in mental capacity of all the Plantagenets." In his case, a multitude of able counsellors brought him little kingly wisdom, for none was so constantly untrue to himself. A prince of rare fickleness and falseness, in whom "conscience appeared to be dead."

The most of King Henry III.'s long reign was "an oscillation between revolutionary governments and royal misrule," which state of things gave rise to the grave problem of how to weaken what rule he maintained without producing anarchy within his kingdom. Happily, that problem was solved by the labours and wisdom of able men, not, however, without much bloodshed; but at the end of this king's reign, England became for the first time in its history "nationally one," as to-day.

"A sixth of the royal revenue was wasted in pensions to foreign favourites. The debts of the Crown mounted to four times its annual income. Henry was forced to appeal to the Great Council of the realm, and aid was granted on condition that the King confirmed the Charter." There being no other alternative, Henry assented; and thus was established the well-known constitutional principle, made familiar to many a king who succeeded Henry III., that redress of wrongs precedes the granting of supplies to the Crown.

For many an important reform which proved of infinite value to English freedom in later times, the country was indebted to Stephen Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury, who died (1228) the year after Henry declared himself of age.

The greatest grievance suffered from Henry III. was his preference for foreigners over his own countrymen, which was greatly resented. "The most lovely and lovable thing in Christendom," the existing Abbey-church of Westminster, which he began to build, and where he lies buried, that and the earliest inception of the House of Commons over the way, serve to remind us of his reign.

Crown of King, from a Contemporary Seal

Edward I. 1272-1307.

Eldest son of Henry III. Born 1239. Crowned, with his Queen, Eleanor of Castile, at Westminster, August 19th, 1274, two years after his accession, at which time he was absent in the Holy Land, and being there wounded, did not land in England till the month before his Coronation.

With the reign of Edward I. begins "modern England, the constitutional England in which we live"; that wisest of the first Edwards who summoned the barons for the discussion of any matter which affected them, and in like manner the representatives of the boroughs and towns for the discussion of any matter which affected them, the outcome of which was our Parliament of Lords and Commons, born of the Great Council of former reigns, and which that patriotic baron Simon of Montfort, Earl of Leicester (*temp.* Henry III.), had done so much to fashion and to found.

Wales first came under the dominion of the English kings in Edward I.'s reign. His second son, who, by the death of his eldest brother, became Edward II., born at Carnarvon, was created Prince of Wales, a title borne by the heir to the Crown of England ever since.

"No man was more acute in council, more fervid in eloquence, more self-possessed in danger, more cautious in prosperity, more firm in adversity," than this, the "greatest of the Plantagenets." Those whom he once loved he scarcely ever forsook; but he rarely admitted into his favour any that had excited his dislike. "His liberalities were magnificent." Thus the chroniclers.

Among minor matters of interest these may be added: King Edward I. loved not rich apparel, nor the wearing of his crown, holding it "absurd to suppose that he could be more estimable in fine, than in simple apparel." The Coronation Chair in Westminster Abbey was brought by him to England from the Abbey of Scone, in Scotland. Finally, the name Charing Cross is a perpetual memorial of himself and of Queen Eleanor his much-loved wife. Those interested may see a copy of the first Eleanor Cross of the village of Charing of Plantagenet times, in the railway station yard most familiar to Londoners. Edward I. lies buried in Westminster Abbey. His favourite device, Pactum serva ("Keep troth"), is no unworthy epitaph of this politic, vigilant, and enterprising king.

HENRY III.

From an engraved portrait in the British Museum.

EDWARD I.

From an engraved portrait in the British Museum.

Crown of King, from Effigy, Gloucester Cathedral

Edward II. 1307-1327.

Eldest surviving son of Edward I. Born at Carnarvon (as aforesaid), 1284. The first King of England's son, we say, who bore the familiar and popular title of Prince of Wales. He to whom his undoing is traced was Piers Gaveston, his intimate friend and companion during his father's reign, a Gascon gentleman who, loving pleasure not wisely but too well, taught the young prince many an undesirable lesson, and eventually led him that wrong road which so bitterly disappointed and wounded the King his father. Banished from the English court for his share in the intrigues which had estranged the father's affection, Edward II., when he came to the throne, recalled Piers Gaveston, created him Earl of Cornwall, and placed him at the head of affairs. The baronage were furious. After a few months of power, Gaveston was again banished by demand of the Parliament. Once more recalled by the King, he was by the baronage captured and beheaded without trial.

"The six years that followed Gaveston's death are among the darkest in English history," owing to the continued and calamitous dissensions between the barons and the King; added to which there was "a terrible succession of famines." Famine and an "utter absence of all rule" intensified the national sufferings.

"A mere trifler who violates national rights, outrages national sentiments, and executes national champions, must not expect to inspire even the ordinary respect of hatred" (*Sanford*).

What then?

Edward II. was compelled to sign a declaration of his own wrong-doing and incompetency, whereupon he formally resigned the crown (January 13th, 1327). He was allowed to live for eight months "a private person, without any manner of royal dignity." At the end of that time he was brutally murdered in Berkeley Castle, and lies buried in Gloucester Cathedral. "Less regretted and less respected," this King Edward II., according to the chronicles, than any king of England. How can this be, since the severest sentence of History on record had been already apportioned to the iniquities of John? As the compiler of this history, we are necessarily debarred from quoting the saying imputed to Sir Robert Walpole.

Crown of King, from the Great Seal

Edward III. 1327-1377.

Eldest son of Edward II. Born at Windsor, 1312, succeeding his father at the age of fifteen. Crowned at Westminster, February 1st, 1327. During the first three years of his reign, the administrative power was practically in the hands of Earl Mortimer, the paramour of his mother, Isabella of France, Queen of Edward II. In due order of events Mortimer was hanged, and Isabella never again allowed to meddle in state affairs. Edward III. being, at the age of eighteen, his own master, became a constitutional ruler.

In his reign, the two Houses of Parliament became finally separated as now—Upper and Lower House; Lords and Commons. The former were successful in insisting that no member of their House should be tried, save by his peers. In the House of Commons were seated, side by side, knights of the shires and burgesses of the towns; gentlemen of the counties, allied to the nobles, with merchants and traders; men, in a word, of inferior social rank; thus giving firmer foothold to the rising English Middle-class. King Edward III. assigned to the Middle-class "an authority on national as well as special legislation."

"He had the wisdom to encourage all corporate representations of the Middle-class"—the merchants' and trades' Guilds, for example—"and to recognise in them a conservative, rather than a subversive, element of government." The birth of the energetic, stable, enterprising, and prosperous Middle-class may be said to date from King Edward III.'s reign.

Many well-known and notable victories by land and sea stand forth prominently in its record: those of Crecy, Poitiers, the capture of Calais, the battle of Halidon Hill, of Neville's Cross, and the sea-fight of Sluys. In the ambulatory of the Royal Exchange, London, is commemorated pictorially one event of his reign in which the city's Corporation took part: the entertainment of four kings—England, France, Scotland, and Cyprus—at the Lord Mayor's feast. The Order of the Garter was instituted by King Edward III. He also built St. Stephen's Chapel (the restored crypt of which alone remains), for centuries the House of Commons. Not "wholly unworthy." he to be entitled "the greatest Royal leader of the 'whole' of English society, as well as the first hero-King of the 'whole' English nation." The magnificent castle of Windsor was built by him.

EDWARD II.

From an engraved portrait in the British Museum.

EDWARD III.

From a painting in the British Museum.

Crown of King, from Portrait, Westminster Abbey

RICHARD II. 1377-1399.

Son of the Black Prince, eldest son of Edward III., that model of chivalry, famous in English annals as the hero of Crecy, who fought also at Poitiers and elsewhere, who lived to the age of forty-six, dying then of consumption, and whose dust now lies in Canterbury Cathedral. To him Richard II. succeeded in his eleventh year. Crowned at Westminster July 16th; at the dawn of a period of great political and social strife: "the Great Schism" in the Church; the "Peasants' Revolt"; warfare and dangers broadcast at home and abroad.

A committee of Regency, of whom his uncle was head, held the young King in bonds for some years. Those the King eventually cast off (not without banishments and the aid of the headsman's axe) in his twenty-fourth year. Then he thanked the Lords for their past services—"I have been longer under guardianship than any ward in my realm"—and told them that he needed those services no longer.

The brilliant abilities which Richard II. shared in common with others of the House of Plantagenet, "were marred by a fitful inconstancy, an insane pride, and a craving for absolute power." "Not born to sue, but to command," in the words of Shakespeare. "Although a man be wise himself, yet is the wisdom more of twelve," is an apter quotation from the poet Gower, of Richard's own time.

He preferred "young friends," we read, to "the advice of his older nobles." Were he to be condemned for that alone, nine out of ten lesser folk would stand condemned for a similar failing. But he was despotic. He heavily taxed his people. He was fond of late hours, too, and much devoted to "voluptuous luxury." Spendthrift, also, was he. "Yet were there many laudable features in his character: he loved religion and the clergy; he encouraged architecture; he built Westminster almost entirely [witness Westminster Hall to-day]; the Carthusian monastery near Coventry, and the Dominican at Langley," which in vain five centuries later we seek still standing; not the case with that noble "bed-chamber" originally projected by the Red King.

There it was King Richard did willingly "resign to my cousin Henry of Lancaster" royalty, lordship, sceptre, crown, and heritage; and did entreat of him, in the presence of the Lords of the Council and other of the nobility, to accept of the symbols of royalty. In 1399, on the Festival of St. Michael, thus did King Richard II. A few months later he was dead, whether murdered in Pomfret or elsewhere matters little, and now lies in Westminster Abbey.

Henry IV. 1399-1413.

Crown of King, from Effigy, Canterbury Cathedral

Son of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster; grandson of Edward III.; first king of the House of Lancaster. Born 1366. "Descended by right line of the blood coming from the good lord, King Henry III."; and "through that right God of His grace" had given him, he claimed of Parliament the Throne. Parliament assented—albeit his right of heirship has been deemed doubtful—and he was crowned at Westminster, October 13th, 1399, his Coronation commemorated to our day by the honourable Order of the Bath, which he is said originally to have instituted.

He came to the throne in middle life, having travelled far and wide in Europe, and in the East as far as Jerusalem. Much of his brief reign of fourteen years was spent in campaigns—against the Percys, the Scots, and the Welsh. He was of great activity of mind, as well as of body: "no mere statesman of the cabinet"; personally brave to the extent of rashness; well versed in the knightly and courtly accomplishments; and "with tact enough to catch the humours of the lower-orders"; albeit he governed his people more by terror than by affection.

During no period of England's earlier history were the powers of Parliament, from which he had derived no little support, "so frankly recognized"; and in his several wars none had been more helpful to him than his son, the Prince of Wales—the "Prince Hal"of Shakespeare, later to become Henry V. Young as he was, he took his place in his father's councils, as well as in his armies in the field. A bitter quarrel later broke out between the two, which lasted till the King's death of apoplexy at Westminster.

There is "no real evidence," we are told, to support the stories about the Boar's Head in East Cheap, and Falstaff and his merry companions; and that of Chief Justice Gascoigne is, alas! mistrusted nowadays, along with an earlier tale familiar to every child on its mother's lap—that of Dick Whittington. The real pearls of history do not provide such pleasant reading as some of its mock-pearls. Henry IV. lies buried in Canterbury Cathedral—a city which serves to remind us of the proximity of Gad's Hill, not to add the valour of the men in buckram.

RICHARD II.

From a painting in the National Portrait Gallery.

HENRY IV.

From a painting in the National Portrait Gallery.

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Crown of King, from a Contemporary Miniature

Henry V. 1413-1422

Eldest son of Henry IV. Born 1388. Crowned at Westminster, April 9th, 1413. "When Prince of Wales," says history, he "was committed to prison for affronting one of the King's judges." Elsewhere, we timidly refer to what a king's minister said of "History"—not to be repeated. Both stories may be equally false. Certain it is that history has truthfully related the great Victory of Agincourt, not to be discredited by dry-as-dust researches in rolls or records. That made King Henry V. "the darling of popular fame." He was but twenty-seven years of age (1415) when he won that great victory against overwhelming odds. "If God give us the victory," said he, "it will be plain that we owe it to His grace. If not, the fewer we are, the less loss to England."

Did he who undoubtedly spake those words strike "in the very seat of judgment" the Lord Chief Justice, who was like "as a father to my youth," when he was crowned king? Hall, the chronicler, relates the incident. Shakespeare wrote Part II. of "Henry IV." (from which we quote) 1600-1, nearly two hundred years after the date (1412) when it is said to have taken place.

Ten years later (1422) "the greatness of Henry V. had reached its highest point," and he reigned but nine years. "He had won the Church by his orthodoxy, the nobles by his warlike prowess, the whole people by his revival of the glories of Crecy and Poitiers." Whatever his moral delinquencies, they were forgotten and forgiven. He was almost worshipped by the people. The nobles were fascinated by his knightly qualities; the Commons generously aided him with supplies; the Church esteemed him for his piety and devotion to its interests. "A King and an Englishman" is the recorded verdict; "the noblest representative of the House of Lancaster." He died at Rouen at the age of thirty-four, and lies buried in Westminster Abbey. Whatsoever man might do for his country, that did Henry V. as England's King. His abilities were not less conspicuous in the council than in the field.

Crown of King, from a Painting on Glass

Henry VI. 1422-1461.

Only son of Henry V. Born 1421. Ascended the throne 1422. Proclaimed King of France the same year. Crowned at Westminster King of England, November 6th, 1429—a child in his eighth year, who during his minority was under the guardianship of Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick. One of the most unfortunate of the sovereigns of the House of Lancaster, whose reign was a continued succession of misgovernment, violence, and anarchy; partly the results of an "intellectual weakness," supposed to have been attributable to an inherited infirmity (epilepsy) traceable to his grandfathers on both sides.

It has been said of Henry VI. that he was better fitted for a cloister than a crown; to have been a monk rather than the ruler of a kingdom. In that event, the name of Henry of Windsor might have been enrolled in the calendar of saints, as one who had aimed at the religious regeneration of that part of the world in which his life was spent. Of this side of his character we are reminded by "the College of our Lady of Eton, beside Windsor," and King's College, Cambridge; the one for centuries the nursery of the other.

"A man of pure simplicity of mind," 'tis said, "without the least deceit or falsehood"; who "always spoke truth and performed every promise he made." A simple man of noble thoughts, and of gentle, unselfish, and forgiving disposition; thrice made prisoner, twice deposed, and finally murdered in the Tower. The siege of Orleans (1428-9), recalling "God's holy maid," Jeanne D'Arc, and her martyrdom at Rouen, were of his reign, toward the close of which, of all the possessions in France which this king's predecessors had held, Calais alone remained.

The ruinous issue of the great struggle with France roused England to a burst of fury against the Government, to whose weakness it attributed its disasters. Jack Cade's insurrection was one of the immediate results. The Wars of the Roses were to follow; Henry having sunk into a state of idiocy, which made his rule, even feeble as it was, no longer possible. The rival House of York appeared in the field, and the cause of the House of Lancaster was lost at the battle of Towton, near Tadcaster, in Yorkshire (1461). With the Yorkist victory there gained, the crown passed to Edward, Duke of York, who boasted of a double descent from Edward III. Betrayed into the hands of his enemies, Henry VI. was finally deposed (1461), and passed to his death (1471) in the Tower of London. He was laid to rest at Chertsey, whence, later, Henry VII. caused his remains to be removed to St. George's Chapel at Windsor.

HENRY V.

From a painting in the National Portrait Gallery.

HENRY VI.

From a painting in the National Portrait Gallery.

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Crown of King, from Contemporary Authorities

EDWARD IV. 1461-1483.

First King of the House of York. Born 1441. His grandfather was Richard, son of Edmund, fifth son of Edward III.; and his grandmother was Anne, great grand-daughter of Lionel, third son of the same king. Elected King of England, March 5th, 1461; but before his Coronation was obliged to take the field, and fight the battle of Towton as aforesaid (March 29th, 1461). Crowned at Westminster three months later, June 29th, 1461. Among the ablest, the most ruthless and pitiless of the leaders of that civil war, by which he secured the crown. There is "no reasonable doubt" that Henry VI., Edward, Prince of Wales, that king's son, and the Duke of Clarence—"false, fleeting, perjured Clarence," his own brother (of the traditional butt of Malmsey)—were murdered by King Edward IV.'s orders.

The ancient baronage of England, according to history, was never more powerful than after the battle of Towton. More powerful than any of those barons who then overawed the crown was he who for a while became master of England: Warwick, the "King Maker," killed at the battle of Barnet. The "Last of the Barons," he. King Edward IV. is said to have met Prince Edward's cry for mercy at the battle of Tewkesbury with a blow from his gauntlet. He was stabbed by Yorkist lords, to whom the act had seemed invitation to the deed.

"A goodly personage and very princely to behold," was written of King Edward IV.; "of visage lovely, of body mighty, strong, and clean made"; who courted and married Elizabeth Woodville (widow of Sir John Grey), and had to mistress Jane Shore, one, 'tis said, of many concubines, his thoughts being much employed upon "the ladies, on hunting, and dressing." His winning manners and gay carelessness of bearing secured him a popularity which was denied to nobler kings. He was not particular as to some of the companions of his leisure, and mixed familiarly with all classes, at all events towards the close of his reign. To the dissoluteness of his life was attributed his comparatively early death at the age of forty-one. He was buried at Windsor, 1483. There his corpse was discovered undecayed in 1789; "his dress nearly perfect, as were the lineaments of his face." More important than all, Caxton set up his printing-press in the Almonry of Westminster in this king's reign.

Crown of King, from Contemporary Authorities

EDWARD V. 1483-1483.

The eldest son of Edward IV., whose person, at that king's death, was seized by his uncle Richard, Duke of Gloucester, younger brother of Edward IV.; which act marks the beginning and the end of this unfortunate prince's career as successor to the throne at the age of twelve.

In 1594, there was published in London, "The True Tragedie of Richard the Third; wherein is showne the death of Edward the Fourth; with the smothering of the two young Princes in the Tower; with a lamentable ende of Shore's wife, an example for all wicked women. And, lastly, the conjunction and joyning of the two Noble Houses, Lancaster and York. As was played by the Queenes Majesties Players." Not Shakespeare's tragedy, this, but another's. Its title tersely sums up the main historical incidents of Edward V.'s brief life of thirteen years. The two young princes were the brothers, Edward V. and Richard, Duke of York, murdered (so history relates) by their uncle's order. Bones of two youths were discovered under a staircase in the White Tower in 1674.

A preliminary of that crime was the summary execution of Lord Hastings, principal minister of the late king, and the loyal adherent of his sons. "Talk'st thou to me of 'ifs'? Thou art a traitor! Off with his head! Now, by Saint Paul, I swear I will not dine until I see the same." Thus Shakespeare, following the chronicles nearest the event related.

Within two months of Hastings' execution, there was no longer an Edward V. to be crowned, after the manner of his ancestors, in Westminster Abbey. The Duke of Gloucester, presently to become Richard III., was the youthful Edward's guardian, appointed Protector by the Council. It is a moot point whether his original motive in consigning his charge to the Tower was other than to have him under his own eye in safe keeping, apart from state factions and intrigues. Whatever the motive may have been, certain is it that the "two young Princes" there lodged were foully done to death; "James Tyrrel having devised that they should be murthered in their beds and no blood shed. . . . Within a while they smothered and stifled them; and their breaths failing, they gave up to God their innocent souls into the joys of Heaven." Their "murtherers" buried them at "the stair-foot, meetly deep in the ground." Thus Holinshed, who adds that Richard gave James Tyrrel "great thanks," "and (as men say) there made him knight."

EDWARD IV.

From a painting
in the possession of the Royal Society of Antiquaries, London.

EDWARD V.

From an engraved portrait in the British Museum.

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Crown of King, from Contemporary Authorities

RICHARD III. 1483-1485.

Younger brother of Edward IV. Born 1450. Made Protector of England, as aforesaid, 1483; elected King by his supporters, June 27th of that year; and crowned at Westminster the month following. His age, therefore, was thirty-three when he ascended the throne, which he held for two brief years, being killed at the battle of Bosworth in the struggle with the Earl of Richmond, Tudor-heir of the House of Lancaster. The Duke of Buckingham's revolt in the first year of King Richard's reign had paved the way to that final issue of the enmity of many of the nobility towards him. Buckingham and Richmond joined hand with hand to dethrone Richard. Buckingham failed, and was beheaded; Richmond succeeded; and to the victor belonged the spoils—the Tudor succession to the crown of England.

Baynard's Castle, by St. Paul's, was the scene of that solemn farce recorded, in which Richard assumed the royal dignity at the invitation of Buckingham, and in obedience to the pretended wishes of the citizens—a scene, among others, pictorially represented on the ambulatory walls of London's Royal Exchange.

The murder of the princes proved the overflowing of the already full cup of Richard's iniquities. It roused indignation wherever known—that "crowning deed of blood." "He was close and secret, a deep dissembler, lowly of countenance, arrogant of heart, outwardly companionable when he inwardly hated, not letting to kiss whom he thought to kill, vindictive and cruel, not for evil always, but often for ambition and increase of his estate. Friend and foe were alike indifferent where his advantage grew; he spared no man's death whose life withstood his purpose." Thus Sir Thomas More, in his "Life of Richard III."

The best, perhaps, that has been recorded of him is that he met a soldier's death. He hewed his way on the field of Bosworth into the very presence of his rival. There he fell overpowered by the numbers of those who hated and feared him, eager to have the mastery, and along with it his life. He had actually worn the crown in battle, "which was found as the struggle ended near a hawthorn bush, and placed on the head of the conqueror," amidst shouts of "King Henry!" So, in 1485, came the first of the Tudor line to the throne of England.

Crown of King, from Contemporary Authorities

HENRY VII. 1485-1509.

Son of Edmund, eldest son of Owen Tudor, by Katharine, widow of Henry V. His mother, Margaret Beaufort, was great-granddaughter of John of Gaunt. Born 1456. Came to the throne, as aforesaid, on the field of Bosworth. Crowned at Westminster, October 30th, 1485. Married Elizabeth, daughter of Edward IV.; and so were blended in one the white and red roses of York and Lancaster, henceforth to be the badge of Tudor regality. The inheritance of the Crown was "to be, rest, and abide in King Henry VII. and his heirs." Thus Parliament declared, November 7th, 1485; and it was so.

But this prince of both Houses was to be no more restful in his realm than his predecessors. Within two years of his election, Lambert Simnel, a boy of eighteen, son of an Oxford tradesman, was persuaded to lend himself to the imposture of being Edward, Earl of Warwick, said to have escaped from the Tower, who was the son of George, Duke of Clarence, of the royal line of Edward III. That insurrection put down, another pretender arose in the person of Perkin Warbeck, who was also in due order of events overthrown. Warwick and Warbeck were both prisoners in the Tower, and having (as was said) tired and vexed the King with plans and plots, were sent to death. The execution of the Earl is held to have been "the one judicial murder" of King Henry VII.'s reign.

Parsimony and avarice are considered to have been his chief failings. As was usual with many of England's earlier kings, Henry invaded France. Eventually he received large sums of money from the French king for abandoning the war. "He made the very insurrections and conspiracies against him not only pay for their suppression, but become actual sources of revenue." The chief aim of the King was not to be compelled to appeal to Parliament for money. He worked his way by the revival of "dormant claims of the Crown, by the exaction of fines for the breach of forgotten tenures, and by a host of petty extortions"—not for the greedy desire of riches, said he, or hunger of money; but "to bring low and abate the high stomachs of those of his subjects who had too much or enough money and to spare." The more ostentatious a nobleman (among others) in his style of living, the likelier he to attract Henry's attention; all illegal, but not without profitable warnings and lessons. One of the most skilful and far-sighted of rulers this Henry Tudor.

RICHARD III.

From a painting in the National Portrait Gallery.

HENRY VII.

From a painting by an unknown Flemish artist.
In the National Portrait Gallery.

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Crown of King, from Contemporary Authorities

HENRY VIII. 1509-1547.

Only surviving son of Henry VII. Born 1491. In the year of his accession married, by Papal dispensation, Catherine of Aragon, his deceased brother Arthur's wife. Crowned at Westminster, June 24th, 1509. Received the title of Defender of the Faith, 1521, and styled Head of the Church ten years later. Divorced Queen Catherine, May 23rd, 1533, and married Anne Boleyn, who was crowned Queen the month following. Catherine died at Kimbolton in 1536. Queen Anne Boleyn, on whose character he had stamped the infamy of adultery, if not a worse crime, was executed, and the King three days after (May 20th, 1536) married the Lady Jane Seymour, who died in childbed, 1537. Three years later he married Anne of Cleves, whom he divorced in little more than six months; whereupon he married Catherine Howard, his fifth wife. Two years later she was sent to the block, and in 1543 he married his sixth wife, Catherine Parr. The most married king of England.

It is said that he dressed himself in white on the day of Anne Boleyn's execution, to display his contempt for her, little divining that her child would be known in history as the most famous of his House, and one of the greatest of Queens the world has ever known.

The Reformation, and the dissolution of the monasteries, its natural outcome, is to be reckoned the most notable event of Henry VIII.'s reign, abiding in its consequences. The most famous statesman of the times was Cardinal Wolsey, the King's Chancellor and most able and trusted first Minister of State; son of a wealthy townsman of Ipswich, memorials of whom remain to our time in Christ Church, Oxford, Hampton Court Palace, and in that well-known London thoroughfare Whitehall, the site in part of York House, his principal palace. "Haughty beyond comparison," he.

In raising his clerical favourite (ambitious, 'twas said, to become Pope) to the head in Church and State, King Henry "gathered all religious as all civil authority into his personal grasp." Wolsey's downfall came. "There was never legate or cardinal that did good to England," said the Duke of Suffolk, when Wolsey's doom was sealed by the wrath of his master in the business of Queen Catherine's divorce. Wolsey died in 1530. Henry henceforth had to think and act without him. The ten years that followed were among the most momentous in English history. "The one great institution which could still offer resistance to the royal will was struck down." That institution was the Church in England. Henry himself became its "Supreme Head." Thus came the Reformation, under the inspiration (for so it is recorded) of Thomas Cromwell, able Secretary of the Cardinal, and after his death Henry's Prime Minister, whose fall was as sudden as Wolsey's.

Crown of King, from Willement's Heraldry

EDWARD VI. 1547-1553.

Son of Henry VIII. by Jane Seymour. Born 1537. Crowned at Westminster, February 20th, 1547, at the age of ten. Died at the age of sixteen. Was by his father's will placed under the guardianship of a Council of Regency, of whom the youthful Edward's uncle, Lord Hertford, afterwards Duke of Somerset, was the chief, subsequently assuming the title of Protector. His period of office was marked by a struggle between adherents of the old religion (Catholic) and of the new (Protestant); the use of the Book of Common Prayer which, with slight alterations, is still that of the Church of England, and of the Missal and Breviary from whose contents it is mainly drawn; such, historically, were the points of religious conflict at the beginning of the reign of Edward VI., here noted because they occupied men's minds and provoked disorder and bloodshed throughout the kingdom during the most of his brief reign.

Edward VI.'s character partook of the obstinacy of his father's, which was formalised in the son by weak health, early ending in consumption. His faults assuredly did not lie on the side of an excess of feeling, as is shown by his indifference to the execution of both his uncles, the Protector and Lord Seymour, and in the cool way in which he notes the fact of their death in the journal which he kept. Had he lived, he might have turned out a respectable but not an admirable sovereign, nor one of an engaging character. In his case, whatever was, was right. His reign seems to have ended neither too early nor too late. "Whom the gods love die young." Let that be his all-sufficient epitaph.

He is best remembered by his grammar schools, of which he founded eighteen, the greatest of which is Christ's Hospital, for considerably over three centuries remaining in one place—Newgate Street, London, but now removed to Horsham. St. Bartholomew's, St. Thomas's, Bridewell, and Bethlehem—the so-called "royal hospitals"—were of Edward's institution. He was not a little of a "bigot" religiously, pardonable enough in one who had but just "come to years of discretion" when he died. He was prone, we are told, to lecture others much older than himself on principles of theology. He dictated to his sister Mary, a bigot herself, on the rules of her own conscience: "Although her good sweet King," said she, "hath more knowledge than any other of his years, yet it is not possible that he can be judge of these things." Edward VI. died at Greenwich, and lies in Westminster Abbey.

HENRY VIII.

From a painting by Holbein.
In the collection of Earl Spencer, at Althorp Park.

EDWARD VI.

From a painting by an unknown artist under the influence of Hans Holbein.
In the National Portrait Gallery.

BOS PUB LIBR

Crown of Queen, from a Rare French Print

MARY I. 1553-1558.

Daughter of Henry VIII. by Catherine of Aragon. Born 1516. Proclaimed and Crowned (October 1st) 1553. Married Philip of Spain the year following. Her name has been passed down through the intervening centuries as "bloody Queen Mary"; not without warranty for that odious appellation, since "almost two hundred persons" perished in the flames for their religious convictions during the four brief years of her reign—"a number at the contemplation of which the mind is struck with horror." Thus Lingard the historian (Catholic). Other authorities say, "nearly three hundred." It matters not which; the epithet is registered in History, and can never be erased. None can write of Mary I. without sickening at the thought of the blood shed by her to "purge Heresy"; because in her reign one person thought differently from another in matters of religious opinion.

"We confess we pity 'Bloody Mary,'" (writes Leigh Hunt) "almost as much as any unfortunate sovereign on record. She caused horrible and odious suffering; but she also suffered horribly herself, and became odious where she would fain have been loved. She had a bigoted education, and a complexional melancholy; was stunted in person, plain in face, with impressive, but gloomy, eyes; a wife with affections unrequited; and a persecuting, unpopular, but conscientious sovereign. She derived little pleasure apparently from having her way, even in religious matters; but acted as she did out of a narrow sense of duty; and she proved her honesty, however perverted, by a perpetual uneasiness and anxiety. When did a charitable set of opinions ever inflict upon honest natures those miseries of an intolerant one?"

The greatest of the Martyrs of her reign in point of dignity and learning were Cranmer, Archbishop (of Canterbury), and Bishops Latimer, Ridley, Hooper and Ferrar; their ecclesiastical enemy the brutal Bonner, Bishop of London. "Play the man, Master Ridley; we shall this day light such a candle, by God's grace, in England, as I trust shall never be put out." So spake the great Reformation preacher, Latimer, to his fellow-martyr at the stake.

The rebellion of Sir Thomas Wyatt and the "men of Kent" was an event of Mary's reign. Had it proved successful, she might never have earned that repellent prefix to her queenly title. She was a religious bigot of the intensest kind, who was miserable herself, and caused widespread misery and suffering to others. Her death at the age of forty-three was hailed by the nation with joy—an obstinate, bigoted, cruel, revengeful, and tyrannous queen.

Crown of Queen, from Contemporary Authorities

ELIZABETH. 1558-1603.

Daughter of Henry VIII. by Anne Boleyn. Born 1533. Prisoner in the Tower for a time (1554). Succeeded to the throne on the death of her half-sister Mary. Crowned at Westminster, January 15th, 1559. A great as well as fortunate sovereign—a courageous woman of keen intellect, who, if she had wise counsellors, as indeed she had, showed that she was well able to choose them. By general assent "Supreme Head" of the Protestant world of her time. "Though she was endowed with all the goods of nature and fortune, and adorned with all those things which are valuable and to be desired, yet there were some things in her that were capable of amendment; nor was there any mortal whose virtues were not eclipsed by the neighbourhood of some vices or imperfections" (*Bohun*, in "*Nichols's Progresses*").

One of the greatest of queens, and one of the most flattered and vain of women. Her "beauty" and her "divine perfections" were a theme of admiration by some of her court till her age was past three-score years. Sir Walter Raleigh (among others) "could not exist out of her presence," at a time when she was more renowned as queen than beautiful as woman. But "God had given her a heart that did never fear any enemies"; and that the stoutest that ever beat in queen.

The most memorable event of Elizabeth's reign was the victory won by the sea-captains of her fleet—great men all by the record—over Spain's Invincible Armada. England itself was glad enough to be vain of that victory (commemorated on Plymouth Hoe) which crippled the power of Spain. An event of Elizabeth's reign, hardly less important, for years threatening the peace of her kingdom, was the avowed pretentions to the English crown of Mary, "commonly called Queen of the Scots"; who was supported by much sympathy among Englishmen themselves, as well as by the tie of marriage, and the bond of a common religion with the two most powerful sovereigns of Europe—those of France and Spain. Mary's execution in Fotheringhay Castle took place the year before that victory over the Armada, whose challenge to England was in a measure induced by that extreme penalty exacted and finally consented to by Queen Elizabeth.

Elizabeth's aims were "to preserve her throne, to keep England out of war, and to restore civil and religious order." In pursuing those aims she was supported by as able a group of statesmen, of whom Cecil and Walsingham were foremost, that ever Queen had. Nor was she less fortunate in finding able commanders by sea and land to promote the welfare of her kingdom. The greatness of Queen Elizabeth rested, above all things else, on her power over her People. "Nothing, no worldly thing under the sun, is so dear to me as the love and good will of my subjects."

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

MARY I.

From a painting by Joannes Oorvus.
In the National Portrait Gallery.

ELIZABETH.

From a painting by Zucchero.
In the collection of the Marquis of Salisbury, at Hatfield.

Crown of King, from Contemporary Authorities

JAMES I. 1603-1625.

James VI. of Scotland, son of Mary, Queen of Scots, great grandson of James IV. of Scotland, by Margaret, daughter of Henry VII. of England. Born 1566. Crowned King of Scotland, 1567. Married Anne, Princess of Denmark, 1589. Succeeded to the crown of England, March 24th, 1603. First styled King of Great Britain 1604, when he came to London, being then in the thirty-seventh year of his age. Right glad was he to enter that southern "Elysium"—where he became freer from the somewhat harsh tutelage and control which had marked his earlier youthful experiences as King of Scotland.

He was the son (as above said) of the accomplished and "voluptuous" Mary, and the foolish and debauched Darnley; his mother, during her pregnancy, had seen Rizzio assassinated before her face; he had for his tutor Buchanan, who made him a pedant, "which was all," he said, "that he could make of him"; he was a King at the age of one; and he continued more or less childish (according to contemporary chroniclers, of whom many have described his peculiarities and weaknesses) as long as he lived: at once clever and foolish, confident, and in some respects of no courage.

A great hunter, this first of the Stuarts, clad all in grass green with a green feather; big head, slobbering tongue, ricketty legs, quilted, "stiletto-proof" clothes, which he would wear to rags, none too cleanly in his person, addicted to drinking, not ordinary light French and Spanish wines, but strong Greek wines; "the bottle governed him; the favourite governed him; his horse and dogs governed him; pedantry governed him; passion governed him; and when the fit was over repentance governed him as absolutely." Thus has James I.'s character been summed up. "His shrewdness and learning only left him, in the phrase of Henry IV., 'the wisest fool in Christendom.'"

"As it is atheism and blasphemy to dispute what God can do, so it is presumption and a high contempt in a subject to dispute what a King can do, or to say that a King cannot do this or that." From a Star Chamber declaration of James I., touching the "Divine right of Kings"; of which more was to be heard later in the reign of one of his successors.

A breach firstly with the Puritans was followed by a breach with the Catholics: the outcome of which was "the Gunpowder Plot." Barrels of powder were placed in the vaults of the Parliament House, with the intent to blow up King and Ministry, on November 5th, 1605—a conspiracy that failed; Guido Fawkes (a soldier of fortune), Garnet, and others, prime movers in it, all being either killed or sent to the block. Buckingham, Bacon (the great Chancellor), and Carr, Earl of Somerset, were notable personages of this reign. James it was who beheaded Raleigh!

Crown of King, from Contemporary Authorities

CHARLES I. 1625-1649.

Only surviving son of James I. Born 1600. The year of his accession married Henrietta, daughter of Henry IV. of France. Crowned at Westminster, February 2nd, 1626, and at Edinburgh, 1633. The court of Charles was decorum and virtue itself, in comparison with that in which he had been reared. Drunkenness disappeared, and there were no scandalous favourites such as Carr, and he on whose neck James loved to loll; though George Villiers, the first Duke of Buckingham, retained his ascendancy as the friend and assistant of Charles as king.

Of a much less jovial temperament was he than his father, and of more virtue; though there was still (we read) a good deal of "private licence" at Whitehall. "Oaths!" exclaimed Charles II., "Oaths! Why, your Martyr was a greater swearer than I am." It has been questioned also, whether, in other respects, Charles I.'s private conduct was so "immaculate" as the solemnity of his latter years and his unhappy fate have led people to conclude. Whose private conduct, prince or peasant, in early life is immaculate? Why kings more than their subjects?

Charles I. might, unpolitically, have been less unpopular, but for his unsympathetic nature, his stiffness and reserve, a certain "frigid haughtiness," and his profound belief in his own wisdom, which could gain little or nothing from being brought into touch with the opinions of other men. He had been schooled, politically speaking, to look upon government as the "Divine right" of the King, independent of the will of the governed—a lesson taught him by his father. But with all his faults he was "a diligent and earnest reader of books." Not a few faults are atoned by that excellent quality. Moreover, he was a connoisseur and patron of art.

Adversity rather than prosperity shows Charles I. in the more favourable light. The great events of his reign are familiar to everyone: his attempt to seize the five members of the House of Commons (1641-2); his standard raised at Nottingham the same year, the beginning of the Civil War; his traffic with the Scots and betrayal (1646); his seizure by Colonel Joyce at Holmby (1647); his retreat to the Isle of Wight, and confinement in Hurst Castle (1648); his removal to Windsor, and thence to St. James's Palace; and, finally, his trial in Westminster Hall, and execution before Whitehall, January 30th (1649), aged forty-nine. He lies buried in St. George's Chapel, Windsor.

JAMES I.

From a painting by Paul Van Somer.
In the National Portrait Gallery.

CHARLES I.

From a painting after Van Dyck, by Old Stone.
In the National Portrait Gallery.

OSTON
UBLIC
IBRARY

The Present Regalia dates from this period.

CHARLES II. 1649-1685.

Born 1630. On May 19th, 1649, the year in which Charles I. was beheaded, a Commonwealth was declared. Oliver Cromwell became Lord Protector, 1653-8, and Richard Cromwell, his son, 1658-9, what time Charles II. remained in exile. Charles, who, together with his brother James, Duke of York, had escaped from St. James's Palace (April 23rd, 1648), landed in Scotland (1650), and was crowned at Scone the year following. Crossed over into England, and was defeated at the battle of Worcester; went afterwards to Holland. Landed at Dover May 29th, 1660, and restored to the throne. Crowned at Westminster, April 13th, 1661, and the year following married Catherine, Infanta of Spain.

The Restoration marks the birth of "Modern England"—that England yet in the full of her fame, whose eventual destiny under the greater and more comprehensive name and title of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the British Dominions beyond the seas; India, the Dominion of Canada, Australasia, United South Africa, and the lesser British Dependencies: whose eventual destiny as an Empire none can forecast. This much may be said of it to-day, that it is the greatest, wealthiest, and most powerful Empire the world has ever known.

By far the ablest of the House of Stuart was Charles II.: "Of great quickness of conception, great pleasantness of wit, with great variety of knowledge, more observation, and truer judgment of men than one would have imagined. . . . He desired nothing but that he might be easy himself and that everybody else should be so." Thus Sir William Temple, the well-known statesman of the Restoration period.

Everyone who has read Pepys—the truest biography, save one, in the English language—knows all about Charles II., his court, his mistresses, children, dogs and ducks, dress, jokes, debts, theatre-going, horse-racing, gambling, and so on. His transactions with France and Holland are discussed in like manner by Pepys; the naval victories of the Dutch, and the money payments of the French king. Nor are the "Regicides" forgotten, twenty-eight of whom were brought to trial, and thirteen executed, for their share in the trial and death of the late King, whose "Divine right" did not greatly trouble his son and successor. His object was to carry on the Government of England peacefully and pleasantly; to rest, in a word, being brought out of great tribulation, and be thankful.

JAMES II. See Note, Charles II. 1685-1688.

James VII. of Scotland. Second son of Charles I. Born 1633. Married, firstly, Anne Hyde, daughter of the Lord Chancellor Clarendon; and, secondly, after her death, Mary, Princess of Modena, to whom a son was born, June 10th, 1688, some five months before the coming of William of Orange. Crowned at Westminster the year of his accession. Monmouth's (natural son of Charles I. by Lucy Walters) rebellion took place the same year. He was defeated at Sedgemoor, near Bridgewater, and beheaded on Tower Hill (1685). The "Bloody Circuit" of Chief Justice Jeffreys through Somerset and Dorset, which brought infamy to his name, followed; the which series of judicial murders had not a little to do with the deposition of King James II.; that infamous vengeance—"this marble is not harder than the King's heart," said one of his generals—and the committal to the Tower of the "Seven Bishops."

James II. fled from St. James's Palace on the night of December 12th, 1688, was seized soon after at Feversham, and brought back. He finally left England, December 23rd of the same year. After an abortive attempt to regain his kingdom by landing in Ireland (Kinsale), 1689, he returned to France, 1690, and died at St. Germains in 1701.

"To preserve the government, both in Church and State, as it is now by law established," was the promise made by James II. at the date of his Accession. Before the three years of his brief reign had expired, he had succeeded in breaking it in almost every particular. It would not be easy to say which king's promises were the least to be relied on, Charles I.'s or James II.'s. Certain is it that the memory of the first is generally regarded with more consideration than that of the second. Although the Civil War undoubtedly caused more bloodshed in the kingdom, the "second Stuart tyranny" provoked more hatred among the common people. It may be doubted whether the "Bloody Circuit" and its judge have their counterpart for ruthless injustice and cruelty in the pages of English history.

"Do you not know that I am above the law?" said James to one of his court on a notable occasion. "You may be, your Majesty, but I am not," was the reply. A king who could speak thus, in the concluding years of the seventeenth century, having regard to his father's fate, was obviously not likely to reign over long "above the law" of the land, which law he had promised to maintain. Three years proved sufficient. Had King James II. reigned longer, a second civil war would probably have been the result. When he slipped away first from St. James's Palace, most people were glad to be rid of him, and sorry when he was brought back. The second occasion, he got away for good, and ended his days in exile plotting his restoration.

CHARLES II.

From a painting by Mrs. Beale.
In the National Portrait Gallery.

JAMES II.

From a painting by Sir Godfrey Kneller.
In the National Portrait Gallery.

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WILLIAM III. AND MARY II. 1689-1702.

See Note, Charles II.

William III. was son of William, Prince of Orange, by Mary, daughter of Charles I. Born 1650. Mary II., his wife, was daughter of James II. Born 1662. A brief interregnum, from December 11th, 1688, to February 13th, 1689. National discontent with the policy and conduct of James II. culminated in a national rising in support of the landing of William of Orange, who had been invited over by leading English statesmen to accept the crown vacated by James's flight. The Prince landed at Torbay, with an army of thirteen thousand men, November 5th, 1688, and, marching on Exeter, was hailed with joyous enthusiasm by its citizens, other cities and towns throughout the kingdom following the example of the West of England in hailing the revolt with delight. Everywhere in England it was triumphant. In due order of events, the Prince's army reached Salisbury, and presently entered London, and the Revolution of 1688 became an accomplished fact; the expression of the national feeling being in favour of a "Free Parliament and the Protestant Religion."

After debate it was agreed by Parliament that William and Mary should be acknowledged as joint-sovereigns, but that the actual administration should be left with William alone. The memorable "Declaration of Rights" was drawn up, and on February 13th, 1689, presented to William and Mary in the Banqueting-house, Whitehall. In full faith that its principles would be accepted and maintained by the Prince and Princess of Orange, the Crown was tendered to them. They were declared King and Queen, and crowned in Westminster Abbey April 11th following.

Those who would read the character of William III. at length should turn to Macaulay's History: a brave and successful commander, an able and high-minded statesman, and a noble man; Mary, his wife, a good and sensible woman, lively and affable, self-sacrificing, devoted to her husband, who was also deeply attached to her. A small gold locket containing "a lock of the hair of Mary," was found nearest his heart when he died. He was tried as few English kings have been tried; frequently plotted against by Jacobites, and more than once threatened with assassination; but remained the same sincere, energetic, and brave King to the last; not altogether popular, but by sheer force of character gaining men's admiration and esteem.

The famous siege and relief of Londonderry, and the battle of the Boyne, were of King William's reign; but much more famous than these is the fact that all claim of the King's "Divine Right," or of his "hereditary right, independent of the law," was formally put an end to by the crowning at Westminster of William and Mary.

ANNE. [1] See Note, Charles II 1702-1714.

Second daughter of James II. Born 1665. Succeeded to the crown on the death of William III., whose wife, Queen Mary II., pre-deceased him, dying in 1694. Crowned at Westminster April 13th, 1702. Was married to Prince George of Denmark in her eighteenth year, by whom she had thirteen children, all of whom died young. He died six years after the Queen's Accession.

Anne's was the reign of Sarah Jennings, Duchess of Marlborough, whose influence over the Queen was for long paramount; and of her husband, John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough, the greatest Captain of his age, who defeated the armies of France at Blenheim, Ramillies, Oudenarde, and Malplaquet, as great in council as in the field; the reign also of great statesmen, Harley, St. John (Viscount Bolingbroke), Somers, Godolphin, and Montague; of great masters of literature, Addison, Steele, Swift, Pope, Gay, and the rest; of other representative men, Lord Peterborough among the noteworthy, a general who had "a real genius for war," and helped in Spain to bring victory to the soldiers of the Queen.

One event of Anne's reign for ever memorable in History was the final Union of England and Scotland, dating from the year 1706-7, that of the victory of Ramillies. In giving her assent to the Act of Union, Queen Anne said: "I desire and expect from my subjects of both nations, that from henceforth they act with all possible respect and kindness to one another." As Great Britain, the nations twain have, ever since Queen Anne's time, been united; the people thus happily joined together being generally referred to as English instead of more correctly British; the one subject of occasional contention remaining unto this present day.

"Good Queen Anne" was a common enough distinction conferred on this sovereign in everyday talk in Georgian times. She was "good" in the popular estimation, because in reality she was so: pious, affectionate, amiable, charitable, not very intellectual, and Protestant to the backbone. The relations existing between herself ("Mrs. Morley") and Sarah, the tyrant Duchess of Marlborough ("Mrs. Freeman") have frequently been told, and reveal the weaker side of Queen Anne's character. She was in truth so gentle, inoffensive, and kind, that she could not fail of being described accurately as a good woman, even though dull. And what more sufficient or higher title?

WILLIAM III. (OF ORANGE).

From a painting by Jan Wyck.
In the National Portrait Gallery.

MARY II.

From a painting by William Wissing.
In the National Portrait Gallery.

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GEORGE I. See Note, Charles II. 1714-1727.

First sovereign of the House of Hanover. Son of the Elector of Hanover, by Sophia, daughter of Elizabeth, daughter of James I., in whose line the Act of Settlement (1701), passed on the death of the last surviving child of the Princess Anne (afterwards Queen), vested the Crown of the United Kingdom. By that Act of Settlement it was enacted (among other matters) that every Sovereign of England must thenceforth be in communion with the Church of England "as by law established."

George I. was born 1660. Created Duke of Cambridge, 1706. Proclaimed King, August 10th, 1714. Landed at Greenwich, September 18th following. Crowned at Westminster. It should be of interest to remind the reader that Queen Anne was the last English sovereign who presided in person at the Cabinet Councils of Ministers. With the accession of King George I. began that practice now existing, of those councils being reserved to the private meeting of members of the Ministry in power. In brief, the kingdom now began to be governed, not by the King, but by the Ministers of the Crown. "It was lucky for us that our first Georges were not more high-minded men; especially fortunate that they loved Hanover so much as to leave England to have her own way. Our chief troubles began when we got a king who gloried in the name of Briton, and being born in the country proposed to rule it." Thus that great weekday preacher, Thackeray, who had the rare gift of making history very delightful reading, and of writing sermons which thousands never discovered were sermons, even after they had paid one shilling monthly for the privilege of reading them. He had the happiest knack of disguising his sermons. But this by the way.

George I., as Charles II., liked to be left alone. So long as Ministers did not trouble him, he did not trouble Ministers; a state of things which admirably suited the plans of Sir Robert Walpole, chief of the Whigs, and along with him the country generally. With the exception of a Jacobite rising in 1715, soon quelled, and the well-known "South Sea Bubble," which brought ruin to innumerable homes, George I.'s reign was generally pacific and restful. The duration of Parliament to seven years (as now) dates from his time. He died at Osnaburgh, on a journey to his beloved Hanover, in 1727, having ruled his new kingdom peacefully for thirteen years.

George II. Note. Charles II. 1727-1760.

Only son of George I. Born 1683. Created Prince of Wales 1714. Married the Princess Caroline of Anspach 1705. Ascended the throne 1727. Crowned at Westminster. The wisdom of Walpole's measures of finance had been made apparent in the last reign by a rapid upgrowth of commercial prosperity and a steady reduction of the nation's indebtedness. In brief, Walpole's ministerial policy throughout was a peace policy; to encourage industry and trade, and promote economy; and the result had been a notable increase in national wealth and prosperity. He was Prime Minister in 1727, when George II. came to the throne—hated, feared, and loved by him in turn.

So much, indeed, did the King dislike his father's chief ministerial adviser that, but for the Queen, Walpole would probably have been obliged to resign. But if King George II. feared that able statesman much, he feared his wife more. And as she had determined that no change should be made, Walpole remained in power. He remained in power so long that no Prime Minister of England has ever exceeded Sir Robert Walpole's continuous period of office, which extended to twenty years—fifteen in the service of George II. A lover of peace and liberty, a great statesman, good citizen, and patriot, who kept the nation out of war and brought it much-needed rest, enlarged freedom, and did his best to promote British commerce, as well at home as abroad.

What wonder, then, that this "choleric little King" got to love that Minister whom he had first hated and later feared? It left him more leisure to "talk and to talk," old soldier as he was, about his earlier campaigns. "He is wild, but he fights like a man," said his father. At Oudenarde and Dettingen he had fought bravely. Nor was he in the least degree alarmed in the '45 by the arrival of the Pretender in his Kingdom. He quarrelled with his son Frederick, Prince of Wales, "as thoroughly worthless as it is possible for a mere fool to be," who died in 1751. For the rest, when Walpole went, there was war: war with Prussia, fighting in India, and with the French in Canada; and finally "the Seven Years' War" began (1756). "No war has had greater results on the history of the world, or brought greater triumphs to England; but few have had more disastrous beginnings." William Pitt, afterwards Lord Chatham, was the statesman at the helm of affairs when that war began. It had not ended when George II. died at Kensington Palace.

ANNE.

From a painting by John Closterman.
In the National Portrait Gallery.

GEORGE I. (OF HANOVER).

From a painting by Sir Godfrey Kneller.
In the National Portrait Gallery.

GEORGE III. See Note, Charles II. 1760-1820.

Son of Frederick, Prince of Wales, son of George II. Born 1738. Created Prince of Wales on the death of his father in 1751. Succeeded his grandfather, George II., 1760. Proclaimed King, October 26th, 1760. Married the following year, Charlotte Sophia, Princess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz. Crowned at Westminster, September 22nd, 1761. Fifteen children were the issue of the marriage. George III. reigned for fifty-nine years, the longest period of any sovereign of England, excepting Queen Victoria. During the latter years of his reign there was a Regency, owing to the King's mental derangement.

Some of the most momentous events in history occurred during George III.'s reign: the French Revolution; the Napoleonic wars; the Declaration of American Independence; the birth of England's Empire in the East; the Conquest of Canada; Captain Cook's voyages, and the discovery of Australia and New Zealand and their annexation by Great Britain; the Union with Ireland; the fall of Napoleon; the American War of 1812. Nelson and Wellington stand foremost in the annals of George III.'s times, in leading its navy and army from victory to victory, culminating in those of Trafalgar and Waterloo. Of the great events of George III.'s long reign, and of the great men—statesmen, orators, admirals, generals, lawyers, authors, men of science and the like—that belonged to it, it is not possible to refer to otherwise than merely incidentally. "I know that I can save the country," prophesied the great William Pitt, who died in 1778. And he did save it, and that, too, with the whole nation at his back.

A just king, a religious king, a king who stuck steadily to his work; of kindly nature and domesticated habits, essentially a "good man"; such, in brief, was George III.; but he was also obstinate, narrow-minded, prejudiced, and disposed to be autocratic. He would rather forfeit his crown than consent to this or that course; rather cross over to Hanover than put his hand to this or that; would rather lose the American colonies than submit to be dictated to by rebels; and so forth and so on. In the long run he did most things his Ministers thought it wise should be done; but not without many vexatious delays and endless trouble. "In ten years he had reduced government to a shadow, and had turned loyalty at home into disaffection. . . . He had a smaller mind than any English king before him, save James II." But for all that he was popular with the people, who loved his simple life, and sympathised with his sorrows, which were not a few.

George IV. [See Note, Charles II] 1820-1830.

Eldest son of George III. Born 1762. Prince Regent 1811-1820. Crowned at Westminster. Married to the Princess Caroline of Brunswick, by whom he had one child, the Princess Charlotte of Wales, married to Prince Leopold of Belgium. The Princess died 1817, shortly after her marriage. There were quarrels between the Prince Regent and his wife, which ended in her trial before the House of Lords on a charge of infidelity, which provoked controversy at the time among all classes. On his accession to the throne he hoped to obtain a dissolution of his marriage with Queen Caroline; but such was George IV.'s unpopularity that any measures to that end had to be dropped.

No English monarch's private life from his younger days, as prince, to old age—he died at 68—has been laid so bare, and so severely animadverted upon, as George IV.'s. The facts of his career—not always too charitably related—have been disclosed in memoirs, biographies, and books of gossip, untold in number. "Nature and circumstance had done their utmost to prepare the Prince for being spoiled: the intolerable dulness of his father's court, its stupid amusements, its dreary occupations, the maddening humdrum, the stifling sobriety of its routine would have made a scapegrace of a much less lively Prince." He was not lacking in courage of a kind, like his father; and he was good-natured; "an indolent and voluptuous Prince, not unkindly." Such is the verdict most favourable to him, delivered, after fullest inquiry and consideration, by perhaps the severest of all his critics, Thackeray. "With vices and weaknesses of the lowest and most contemptible order, it would be difficult to find a disposition more abundantly furnished." (*The Greville Memoirs.*)

De mortuis nil nisi bonum; or, as much good at least as may be said. If not, say no more. Nothing, indeed, remains to be said of "the First Gentleman of Europe" that has not been repeated over and over again in published books: Thackeray's *Four Georges*, the *Greville Memoirs*, and the rest. Politically, the greatest measure of his reign was an Act admitting Roman Catholics to Parliament, and to all but a few of the highest posts, civil or military, in the service of the Crown—a long needed and long debated reform.

GEORGE II.

From a painting by Thomas Hudson.
In the National Portrait Gallery.

GEORGE III.

From a painting by Allan Ramsay.
In the National Portrait Gallery.

William IV. See Note Charles II. 1830-1837.

Third son of George III. Born 1765. Created Duke of Clarence, and served for eleven years in the Royal Navy; nine afloat on service in the Mediterranean, and North American and West Indian stations, as midshipman, lieutenant, and post-captain in command of a frigate. Retired from active service with the rank of rear-admiral, and was later gazetted, in turn, vice and full admiral, and admiral of the fleet. Presided at the Admiralty for a while with the title of Lord High Admiral—the last who bore that title. Was associated with Nelson during part of his sea-service.

In 1818, married Adelaide, daughter of the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Meiningen, by whom he had two daughters, both of whom died in infancy; consequently the succession to the Crown fell to the Princess Victoria, daughter of the Duchess of Kent, wife of Edward, Duke of Kent, the King's brother, who predeceased her.

King William IV., who came to the throne in 1830, at the age of sixty-five, was popular with all classes of his subjects; generally known among them as "the Sailor King"; a bluff-spoken, garrulous, kind-hearted man, who "exhibited oddities," distinguished himself by making long and somewhat absurd speeches, and by "a morbid official activity" whilst in the Navy. Neither as prince nor king did he show any remarkable interest in political affairs; "he was reasonable and tractable, presided very decently at the Council, and looked like a respectable old admiral," as he was. So notes Greville in his gossiping pages. He looked after old friends and companions; and, in short, was a kindly, good-natured king, whose early experiences, and by no means luxurious life aboard ship, had taught him many useful lessons, not less profitable to princes than lesser people.

The most important political event of William IV.'s reign was the passing of the Reform Bill (1831-2) by Earl Grey; a measure which had taken many years to convince Parliament was essential to the fair and adequate representation of all classes of the King's subjects in the House of Commons. So great was the agitation produced by its rejection by the House of Lords, that it was finally allowed to pass, and became law; King William himself being favourable to the popular demand for such reform.

VICTORIA. See Note, Charles II. 1837-1901.

Daughter of Edward, Duke of Kent, fourth son of George III. Born 1819. Succeeded to the throne on the death of her uncle, William IV. With the accession of Queen Victoria ended the union of England and Hanover under the same sovereigns; the last-named state passing to the next male heir, Ernest, Duke of Cumberland. Crowned at Westminster June 28th, 1838. Married Albert, Prince of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha (Prince Consort), to whom were born nine children. The Prince Consort died in 1861, and Queen Victoria, who lived much in retirement in the years following his death, in 1901. During those years, the Prince and Princess of Wales took an active part in State affairs in relation to the social aspects of royalty.

Queen Victoria's early reign was not free from political and other troubles: the Chartist Riots (1839); the Corn Law Agitation (1839); the China and Afghanistan Wars (1841); the Irish Famine (1846-7); a rising in the West of Ireland (1848); Sikh, Kaffir, and minor warfare. The Great Exhibition of All Nations of 1851, held in Hyde Park, was to be a herald of universal peace; but within three years the Russian (Crimean) War of 1854-6 broke out. Then followed the serious Mutiny of Native Troops in India; the American Civil War, in which England was in many ways vitally interested; the Danish, Franco-Prussian, Russo-Turkish and other wars, in which England was neutral, followed; and finally, towards the close of Queen Victoria's long reign, came the Boer War in South Africa. So that her reign was anything but one of peace.

But it was a reign of vast and unceasing progress and of notable legislative and other reforms: educational progress, sanitary progress, progress in science and invention, economic, social, and moral progress; improvement of every kind in every way; the reign of iron, steel, and steam; of penny-postage, gas for lighting purposes, railroads, steamships, ironclads, telegraphs, omnibuses, telephones, tramcars, underground railways, the Forth railway-bridge, electric lighting, mechanical improvements in every branch of manufacture; the reign of great charities, cheap travelling facilities, vast hotels, and of complete change in the social habits of the people generally, upper-class, middle-class, and artizan class. The reign of trades unions and of labour representation in Parliament; and the reign of vast accumulations of wealth, not to add of newspapers.

No sovereign was more universally beloved by her people than Queen Victoria, and for none was more universal national sorrow felt and expressed at her death.

GEORGE IV.

From a painting by Sir Thomas Lawrence, P.R.A.
In the National Portrait Gallery.

WILLIAM IV.

From a water-colour by an unknown artist.
In the National Portrait Gallery.

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

EDWARD VII. See Note, Charles II. 1901-1910.

Eldest son of Queen Victoria, and of Albert, Prince Consort. Born 1841. Succeeded to the Throne, January 22nd, 1901. Married, March 10th, 1863, Princess Alexandra (Queen Alexandra, 1901), eldest daughter of King Christian IX. of Denmark; and had issue three sons (of whom the youngest died soon after birth) and three daughters. Crowned at Westminster, August 9th, 1901. The King's eldest son, Prince Albert Victor, created Duke of Clarence and Avondale, born 1864, died in 1892. At the King's accession, his second son, Prince George Frederick Ernest Albert (born 1865), became Prince of Wales; who married, July 6th, 1893, the Princess Victoria Mary of Teck, daughter of Mary Adelaide, Duchess of Teck, daughter of the Duke of Cambridge, son of George III.

Of the political events of King Edward VII.'s reign, the most important were the successful termination of the South African War, and an increasing tendency on the part of the Colonies towards the consideration of Imperial Federation for defensive and trade purposes. A United South Africa, under the British Crown, was the final outcome of the Boer War. In respect of Home affairs, perhaps the most noteworthy political movement was the agitation in behalf of Women's Suffrage. For the rest, King Edward's brief reign of nine years was peaceful, which happy condition of things for the country he was actively helpful in promoting, so that he was often referred to as "the Peacemaker."

No English king has ever been so popular with every section of the community—high, low, rich, and poor—as Edward VII. It might with much truth be added that no reigning sovereign has been so popular in foreign countries, or, indeed, throughout the world. No more tactful prince than he sat on the throne of England. The affection felt for him by his subjects was sincere and widespread, and embraced every class, so that it was said that no man durst say aught disparagingly of him, in the hearing of his fellows, in the worst haunts and slums of London. One of the most genial and kind-hearted of men was King Edward; and withal an indefatigable worker; all things considered—affairs of state, meetings, travel, sport, reviews, banquets, functions, fêtes, commemorations, all things considered, we say, one of the hardest-worked men, whether as Prince of Wales or King, in his dominion.

In one way or another he appealed to the loyalty and attachment of every class; by his neutral attitude in respect of politics and creeds; by his unfailing courtesy and geniality; by the interest he showed in measures of charity; by the unaffected simplicity of his home-life. No better word could be found to sum up the character of King Edward VII. than the expressive word "gentleman." A truer English gentleman never lived.

George V. 1910-

Whom God preserve! Second son of King Edward VII. Born June 3rd, 1865. Married 1893 the Princess Victoria Mary of Teck, only daughter of the Princess Mary Adelaide (of Cambridge), by her marriage with Francis, Duke of Teck, 1866. Succeeded to the throne May 7th, 1910. Held his first council at St. James's Palace the following day; proclaimed King in London and elsewhere throughout the Empire, May 9th. The date of Coronation at Westminster appointed by proclamation to be June 22nd, 1911.

His Majesty early entered the Royal Navy, which distinguished service he adopted as a profession, in like manner as his royal ancestor, King William IV., and his uncle, Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, being an Admiral on the active list at the date of his Accession.

It was truly said of His Majesty's father, when he became king, that he entered upon a great heritage of loyalty to the throne, established by Queen Victoria's long and beneficent reign. That heritage was largely increased by the briefer but scarcely less gracious and prosperous reign of Edward VII., who succeeded in winning the affection of his subjects of every class in a remarkable measure—a measure rarely equalled in the case of any sovereign of the United Kingdom, and surely never excelled.

King George V. is already assured that he may count with certainty on the transference of that loyalty to himself.

He has had the advantage of no inconsiderable training in two of the best schools—example and experience; of example in what way he may best hope to win a people's devotion and affection so that they shall endure; of experience, in that he has the well-established precedents of two former reigns to guide him, alike in the duties of a constitutional sovereign, and in that conception of royalty which those two reigns have made most familiar to his subjects.

King George is endowed with many of the attractive qualities of his father and mother. He is of warm and generous sympathies, a kind heart, and takes a keen interest in any efforts tending to the amelioration of the condition of the poorer classes of his people. He partakes of the punctuality and aptitude for work of the late king, and of his virtues of business method in dealing with it. May he be granted health and strength in fullest measure, to cope with the arduous, never-ending duties now devolving upon him as sovereign of this mighty Empire!

VICTORIA.

From a painting by Thomas Sully.
In the Wallace Collection.

EDWARD VII.

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An Ancient Tale New Told.

"TO keep the past alive for us is the pious duty of the historian." Such is the opinion held by Mr. Birrell, to whom we should all feel grateful for so often having shown us the pleasantest way. Our curiosity is insatiable, and its appetite of the sharpest. It is the historian's task to gratify it. We want to know—at all events large numbers of us are sufficiently curious in that direction; we want to know, not merely what is happening to-day, but what happened long ago.

"The demand is born afresh with every infant's cry" the genial annalist of Things said By the Way truthfully reminds us. That it was early bred in us we make no doubt, for from boyhood onwards, up the steep of the hill, over the hill-top, downwards declining into the vale of years, never once, during all that time, has the historian's supply discovered itself in excess of the demand on our part to know "what happened long ago." The most interesting, instructive, and absorbing "great, unbroken Drama" to which we have had the privilege of access has been that the "pious duty of the historian" has unfolded in the great Pageant of History.

The Coronation of the King of England is one of its most splendid, imposing, and solemn episodes.

The traditionary place of the first crowning of a British sovereign is far-famed Stonehenge by Salisbury Plain. Of the Anglo-Saxon kings of England, seven were crowned on "The King's Stone"—so says tradition—"by the first ford of the Thames" Londonwards travelling from the west. The stone itself (so at least is commonly supposed) still stands, an interesting memorial in the market-square at Kingston-on-Thames, that picturesque suburb of London, not too curiously sought nowadays by strangers and pilgrims, but within easy walk of town. Winchester Cathedral and St. Paul's—the elder church once standing on the site of the present metropolitan cathedral—were likewise coronation places of the Saxon kings of England. It is doubtful where Harold of that line was crowned. But with his successor began that long series of Coronations at Westminster, of which that of their Majesties King George V. and Queen Mary represents for many years to come, we trust, the fitting finale.

"The place where I was crowned and anointed King; the place also of the common sepulture of the Kings of this Realm, where, within the same, and among the same kings, resteth the holy bodie and reliques of the Glorious King and Confessor, St. Edward, and divers others of our Noble progenitors." Thus in brief is summed up the deep and abiding national interest, the imperishable fame, which belongs to the Place where that ancient tale, the King's Coronation, is to be new told before the people.

The words quoted are from the "will" of that king who gave to Westminster Abbey one of its most beautiful adjuncts—the splendid Tudor structure which bears the name of Henry VII.'s Chapel. Among that monarch's "noble progenitors," some wrote of it with no less kingly regard and affection: King Edward III., for example, as "the Peculiar chapel of our principal Palace, in which We and Our ancestors received our Coronation, and all other Royal honours"; King Edward IV., as a building which is placed "in the forefront of the world of England . . . of ever-present interest to all of English race . . . founded by our ancestors, consecrated by the Blessed Apostle, St. Peter, and distinguished by the tomb of the most saintly Edward, King and Confessor." At Christmas-tide of the year 1066, William the Conqueror was crowned, close to the grave of Edward the Confessor; and on, or near, that spot every successive king or queen of England, from that day to this, a period embracing over 800 years, has received the rite of coronation—Norman and Plantagenet, Lancaster and York, Tudor, Stuart, Hanoverian, and Guelph.

No similar succession of events is recorded of any other building in the world. The crowning of the old-time kings of France at Rheims and of the Popes of Rome in the Basilica of the Vatican most nearly approach to it. But Rheims is now deserted, and the present Church of St. Peter at Rome is, by five hundred years, more modern than Westminster Abbey. Moreover, no other coronation rite in Europe reaches back to so early a period as that of the sovereigns of Britain. The crowning of Aidan by Columba is the oldest known ceremony of the kind in Christendom; and, from the Anglo-Saxon "order" of the coronation of Egbert is derived the ancient form of the coronation of the kings of France. Only in two European countries, besides Britain, does the rite retain its full primitive signification, in Hungary, namely, and in Russia. (*Historical Memorials of Westminster Abbey*, 1867, by Arthur Penrhyn Stanley, Dean of Westminster.)

At that eventful Christmas-tide of the year 1066, when William the Norman passed to his crowning at Westminster, the streets of London—such as they then were—and the approaches to the Abbey were thronged with a vast crowd, say the historians. Double rows of soldiers, horse and foot, kept it in hand. That king's was a coronation the like of which (save in Richard I.'s case) has not been seen in England from that day to this. William the Conqueror was left almost alone at the altar, with none but Archbishop Ældred and his terrified priests to take the coronation-oath of the Anglo-Saxon kings. To that he added a solemn promise of his own: to treat his new-found subjects as well as the best of their kings had done. There was a tumult, and almost a fight; a misconception as to the shouts of "Yea! Yea!" and the uplifting of swords within the Abbey, when the assembled Normans and English were in turn asked, in the language of each, whether they would have William for their king?

H.M. KING GEORGE V.

From a photograph by Messrs. Lafayette.

H.M. QUEEN MARY III.

From a photograph by Messrs. Lafayette.

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AN ANCIENT TALE NEW TOLD.

Richard I. (the Lion-hearted) took the Confessor's crown from the altar with his own hands, "in signification that he held it only from God," and delivered it to the Archbishop, who then placed it on the King's head. Richard's coronation, done in such swift and unceremonious fashion, ended in a wholesale butchering and plundering of the Jews —though "against the King's will," as old Speed, the chronicler, would have us believe.

When Queen Mary of ill-memory was crowned, "a relic of the true cross" was exposed on the altar. That relic, spirited away when her successor came to the throne, turned up in an old box, containing some antique ecclesiastical vestments, some two centuries later, and tradition says was long-time kept in the Benedictine College of St. Gregory nigh unto Bath.

For at least five centuries the service of the Roman Catholic Church had been daily performed in Westminster Abbey. Many of our kings and queens were crowned there by the archbishops of that Church, and according to its rites. John Feckenham, of Queen Mary's reign, when "the old religion" was revived, was the last Abbot of Westminster who presided at a Coronation.

The first detailed account of the ceremonial as continued nearly to our own time dates from Richard I. (1189): the procession, namely, from Westminster Hall to the Abbey; the emblematic swords, the sceptre, the spurs, the fact of the Bishops of Durham and Bath and Wells (then first named in this capacity) supporting the King on the right hand and left; the oath; the anointing; the crown, taken in this instance by the King himself from the altar, and given to the Archbishop—an act not repeated.

At the coronation of John (1199), a peculiar function was added. The barons of the Cinque Ports were, for services rendered the King by sea, appointed to carry the state canopy over His Majesty as he passed to the Abbey, and also at the ceremony of anointing (*see Court of Claims*).

The "Knights of the Bath" are first mentioned in a procession of Plantagenet times; the "King's Champion" (now an obsolete functionary) also appeared for the first time then; the "Yeomen of the Guard" fell into position first of all at Henry VII.'s coronation; the Peers of Parliament in their robes, the Knights of the Garter in the robes of their order, the great officers of state in gorgeous apparel, the heralds in crimson and gold tabards, appear to have been first seen in all their magnificent setting, much the same as now, at the coronation in Westminster Abbey of Queen Anne Boleyn (1533); King Henry VIII. of his own design being absent from the ceremony, say the chroniclers.

The prayer in the coronation service—"Almighty God, of His Mercy, let the light of His countenance shine upon your Majesty, grant you a prosperous and happy reign, defend and save you; and let your subjects say Amen—'God save the King!'"—formed the peroration of Archbishop Cranmer's sermon in the Abbey at the Coronation of the boy-king Edward VI.

AN ANCIENT TALE NEW TOLD.

It seems that to Cromwell was first handed the Bible—"a Book of Books which doth contain both precepts and examples for good government"—when he was installed Lord Protector; not in Westminster Abbey, but "solemnly enthroned, girt with a sword of state, clad in a robe of purple, and presented with the Bible," in Westminster Hall. The period of the Commonwealth marks the one break in the continuity of eight centuries, when "he who for the time was king in all but name and right of royal succession, was not invested with the attributes of royalty, the crown, the sceptre, and the orb, in Westminster Abbey."

James II. ordered Sancroft to abridge the ritual. The reason given out to the public was that the day—April 23rd (St. George's Day), 1685—was "too short for all that was to be done." The real reason was to forego that part of the ritual likely to be offensive to the religious feelings of Roman Catholics. The Communion Service was left out. The ceremony of presenting the Bible was omitted. But the King showed no scruples as to making the customary oblation on the altar. "He appeared to join in the petitions of the Litany chanted by the Bishops. He received from those false prophets the Unction typical of a divine influence; and knelt with the semblance of devotion while they called down upon him the Holy Spirit of which they were in his estimation the malignant and obdurate foes. Such are the inconsistencies of human nature that this man who, from a fanatical zeal for his religion, threw away three kingdoms, yet chose to commit what was little short of an act of apostasy rather than forego the childish pleasure of being invested with the gewgaws symbolical of kingly power." Thus Macaulay.

George III. studied the coronation ritual beforehand, and knew more about it than those officials of his court who should have known most. There is a story told of the answer made by the Deputy Earl Marshal of that day (Earl of Effingham) to some complaint of the King as to certain omissions made in the ceremony: "It is true, Sir," said the Earl, "there has been some neglect; but I have taken care that the next coronation shall be regulated in the exactest manner possible."

If the Deputy Earl Marshal no longer had it in his power to make good the promise when the next coronation came, George IV. saw to it that no omissions were made in any part of the ceremony. This anecdote reminds us of another. George II. happened to be chatting with the beautiful Lady Coventry of his day on the topic of state pageants. The only sight, the lady told him, she was now eager to see, was a coronation! The old King laughed heartily and repeated the story in high good humour at the supper-table. Not so long ago we saw this story published in a London newspaper, and attributed to a beautiful American lady conversing with the Prince of Wales, afterwards King Edward VII. Of such ancient stories is contemporary gossip made up.

AN ANCIENT TALE NEW TOLD.

Those interested in omens may remember the story that is told of one of the finest jewels in the state crown of George III. becoming loosened and falling to the ground at the banquet in Westminster Hall. Gossip Jesse relates the anecdote, and further says that many remembered the event when later the American colonies were lost to England! A similar story is told of James II. The crown, not fitting well, tottered on the King's head in the Abbey, and was only prevented from falling by Henry, brother of the patriot Algernon Sidney, who happened to be near the King. "It is not the first time, Sir," he said, "that a member of our family has supported the crown." Yet a third story is told, of Charles I.'s walking-stick falling to the floor at his trial in Westminster Hall, and of the gold head becoming detached. This story is repeated by chroniclers of the events of that time, who add that the King was greatly disturbed at the omen, as well he might have been.

"The person who is the cause of all this pomp and magnificence is the man I envy least," Prince Charles Edward is reported to have remarked (on the authority of David Hume) to a gentleman who recognised him in the Abbey at the Coronation of George III. On the other hand, when, at the coronation of Queen Mary, wife of William III., the Princess Anne kindly remarked to the Queen: "Madame, I pity your fatigue," "A crown, sister," said Her Majesty—"sharply," so Oldmixon would have us believe—"is not so heavy as it seems." In these days, it may be hoped not.

CORONATION MEDAL OF QUEEN ANNE.

THE REGALIA

TO the time of the Commonwealth all the Kings of England were invariably crowned with the crown of King Alfred, better known as the Confessor's Crown.

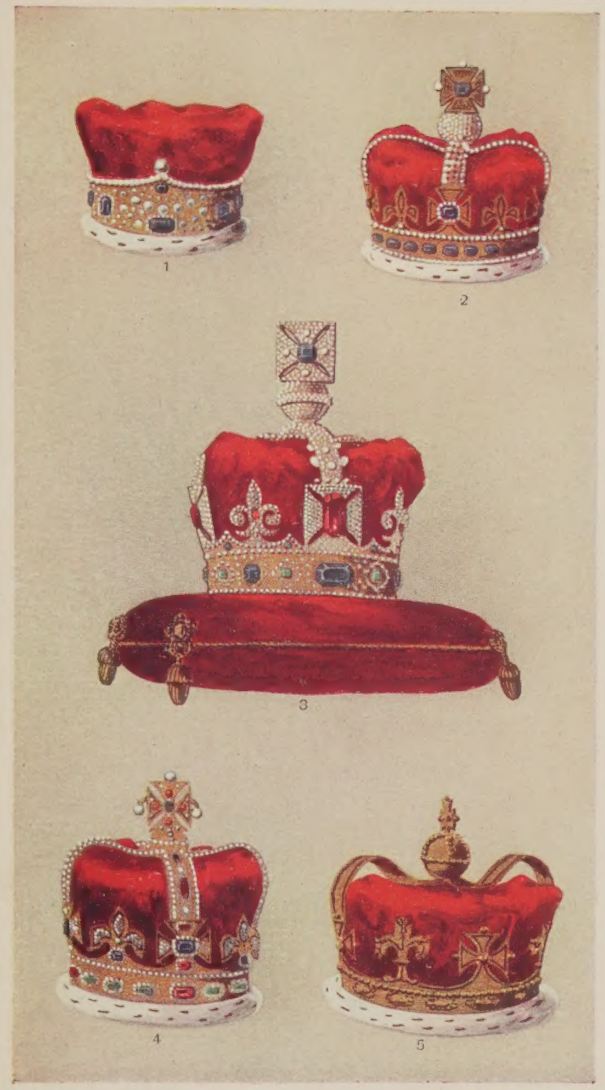
"In the arched-room in the cloisters of Westminster Abbey where the ancient Regalia of this Kingdom are kept, upon a box which is the cabinet to the ancientest crown, there is (as I am informed) an inscription to this purpose: 'Hæc est principatior corona cum qua coronabantur reges Ælfredus, Edwardus,'" etc.; "and the crown (which to this purpose were worth observing) is of a very ancient work, with flowers adorned with stones of somewhat a plain setting." Thus Sir Alfred Spelman in his *Life of King Alfred.*

So that to the time when the aforesaid "cabinet" was forced open, and the "ancientest crown," together with the rest of the Regalia of England, were totally broken and defaced, and finally disposed of and consigned to the crucible, by order of the Commonwealth Parliament, all our kings had been crowned with the crown of Alfred, or "the Confessor's Crown"—believed to have been the first crown of England. "Certainly, the first properly so-called, as previously to the accession of Alfred, we read of election and consecration only, and ever afterwards of coronation." (*J. R. Planché.*)

That made at the Restoration, from which the existing Regalia dates, does not bear the faintest resemblance to the earliest known representation of the crown of one of our Anglo-Saxon kings, Edgar. (*Cotton MSS.*)

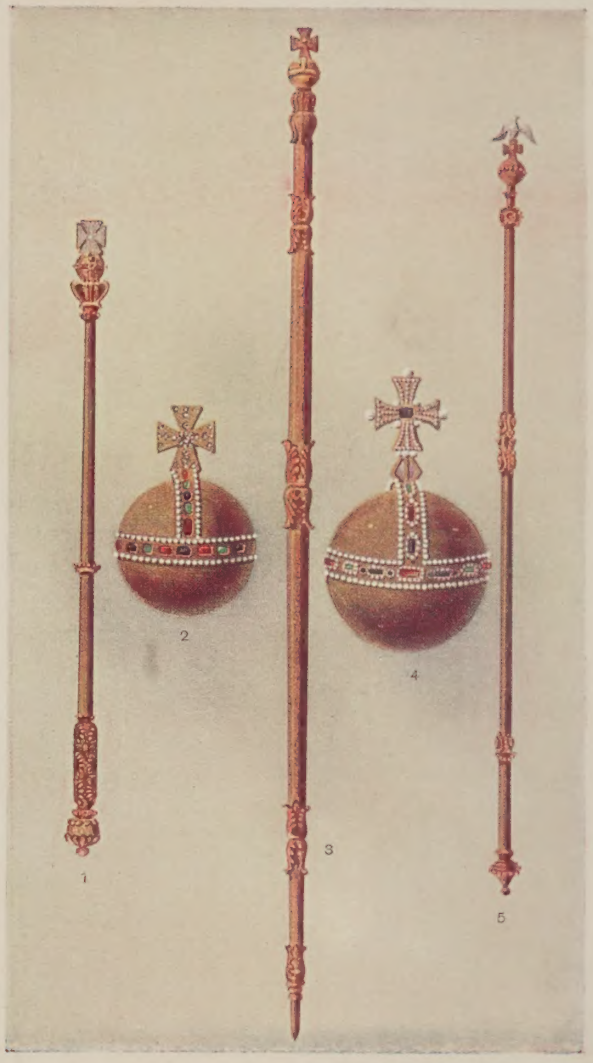
The present Regalia, we have said, practically dates from the reign of Charles II. The Crown-Jewels now used possess no claim to be considered even copies of that ancient Regalia which were taken out of the "Treasury Chest" of Westminster Abbey, and sold by order of the Parliament of Cromwell. The story runs, that to Henry Martin was entrusted "the welcome task" of breaking open the huge iron chest in the ancient chapel of the "Treasury," where the crown-jewels had been mostly preserved for some six hundred years. It is said that Martin dragged out the crown, the sceptre, orb, and coronation robes, and put them on George Withers the poet, "who did first trail about the town with a stately garb, and afterwards with a thousand apish and ridiculous antics exposed those sacred ornaments to contempt and laughter."

From the days of the early kings of England, the "Treasury" (once so-named), containing the Regalia had been in the custody of the Deans and Chapter of Westminster. A motion was made in the House of Commons, January 23rd, 1643, that the Dean, Sub-Dean, and Prebendaries should be required to deliver up the keys; and question put, whether,



THE REGALIA.—1.

1. Queen's Diadem. 2. Queen Consort's Crown. 3. The Imperial Crown.
4. Imperial Crown (Charles II.). 5. Prince of Wales' Crown.



THE REGALIA.—2.

1. Temporal Sceptre (Victoria). 2. The Queen Consort's Orb.
3. St. Edward's Staff. 4. The Imperial Orb. 5. Spiritual Sceptre (Victoria).

upon the refusal of the keys, the doors of the "Treasury" should be broken open? So strong, it would seem, was the deference shown to the ancient rights of the Chapter that, even in those excited times, the question was lost by 58 votes against 37; and when the doors were finally forced, it was only permitted to be done on the understanding that an inventory should be taken, new locks put on the doors, and nothing removed till upon further order of the House of Commons; and this was carried by a vote of 42 against 41.

Cromwell's Parliament in fact got hold of the Regalia, and unfortunately for us of to-day who are interested in antiquarian matters, the six centuries' old Crown-Jewels of Norman, Plantagenets, and Tudors were broken up and sold, and perforce we have now to be content with a Regalia only some 258 years old. Neither Charles II. nor James II. appear to have been greatly disturbed by their loss. James contrived to find £100,000 for dressing his Queen, and saved some thousands of pounds more (so history relates) by omitting the time-honoured Royal procession from the Tower to Westminster.

The Regalia of Charles II.'s reign are still called by their old names. To-day, permanently kept in the Tower of London, they are still, by a shadowy connection with the past, deposited in the Dean of Westminster's custody on the eve of the Coronation, either in the Jerusalem Chamber or in one of the private closets in the Library. Among other time-honoured privileges of the Deans derived from their ancient predecessors, the Abbots of Westminster, is that of instructing or directing the sovereign in the details of the Coronation Service. The Deans and Canons of Westminster are privileged to stand by the side of the Prelates in administering the historic rites. The Dean has still charge of the "Liber Regalis" containing the ancient "order" of the service; and the duty (we believe) devolves upon him, and not on the bishops present, of consecrating the sacred oil used in the ceremony of Anointing.

Turning sharp round to the right, after passing under the gateway of the Bloody Tower, over against the lodgings of the Keeper of the Jewels, which stand above Traitor's Gate, is the Wakefield Tower. Here is His Majesty's Jewel House where the Regalia is kept—a very splendid display of gold and jewels, crowns, sceptres, orbs, swords, dishes, flagons, salt-cellars, sacramental-plate, maces, state-trumpets, used at the Coronation of the kings and queens of England. A rich back-ground of velvet and an arrangement of mirrors and electric-lights set off the flashing jewels to advantage.

At the summit is the King's crown, which was originally made for Queen Victoria's Coronation in 1838, when the chief jewels were taken from older crowns (Charles II.'s and others) and also from the Regalia collection. Among them is the great ruby given to the Black Prince by Peter the Cruel after the battle of Navarette in 1367, and worn by Henry V. in the crown encircling his helmet at the battle of Agincourt.

The crown was enlarged and brightened for the Coronation of the late King Edward VII., and then contained 2,818 diamonds, 297 pearls, and many other jewels, the whole weighing 39 oz. 5 dwt. It has recently been again somewhat improved and altered to allow of the large oblong "Cullinan" diamond, weighing 309 carats, being temporarily attached in front. For the new arrangement two sapphires, fifty-six brilliants and fifty-two rose diamonds have been added. The smaller "drop" cut from the original stone is now, it should be noted to be rigidly exact in such details, at the head of the Royal sceptre.

These magnificent regal emblems are, needless to add, fittingly guarded. The Jewel-room is a strong room—so strong that no burglar would be able to penetrate the cage in which the Regalia is enclosed. A steel-grid closes over the case at the touch of a button. If any part of it is touched during the hours when the Tower is not open, gongs automatically ring in various parts of the Tower, the great iron doors of which we are told can be automatically closed at any time.

The public was first permitted to view the jewels of state in Charles II.'s reign, by a kind of dereliction of duty on the part of their then custodian, an officer known as the Master of the Jewel House. He was a court functionary of importance, being esteemed "the first Knight Bachelor of England," having the appointment of "Goldsmith to the King" in his gift. His profits and perquisites were originally considerable; but when Charles II. came to his own, the Master of the Jewel House (Sir William Talbot) got little enough as his. His profits had to be made the best way he could. So he allowed his confidential servant to take fees for showing the Regalia to strangers, which fees went into his own pocket. When that servant died an offer of "five hundred old broad-pieces of gold" was made to Sir William for the place. From which fact we may conclude, that both master and servants made a tolerably good thing by surreptitiously showing the Regalia to those who were curious to see them.

The old Jewel-House, which was originally a strong chamber in the Martin Tower, was not open to the public, save on payment of a somewhat excessive fee, till somewhere about the year 1842, when the Regalia was removed to another stronghold near where the officers' mess-room now stands. That in its turn gave place to the present chamber in the Wakefield Tower, where the Crown-Jewels may be viewed by anyone on "free days," and on any other day on payment of a small fee.

The Imperial Crown in the centre was originally made, we say, for the Coronation of Queen Victoria. It is composed of a cap of purple velvet (its origin, "The Cap of Estate," worn in time past without the Crown) enclosed by hoops of silver, richly dight with gems in the form shown in the accompanying illustration. The arches rising almost to a point, instead of being depressed, are covered with pearls, and are surmounted by an orb of brilliants. Upon this is placed a Maltese or cross *pattée* of brilliants. Four crosses and four *fleurs-de-lis* surmount the circlet, all composed of diamonds,

the front cross containing the "inestimable sapphire," of the purest and deepest azure, more than two inches long, and an inch broad; and, in the circlet beneath it, is a rock ruby of great size and exquisite colour, which tradition says was worn by the Black Prince at the battle of Crecy, and by Henry V. at the battle of Agincourt, as before related. The circlet is enriched with diamonds, emeralds, sapphires, and rubies, and by the so-named "Cullinan" diamond.

This crown was altered from one constructed expressly for the Coronation of King George IV. The superb diadem then weighed 5½ lb., and was worn by the King on his return in procession from the Abbey to the Hall at Westminster, but on arriving at the Hall, he exchanged it for one about half the weight, made by the then Crown Jewellers, Messrs. Rundell and Bridge, for the occasion, "the jewels being lent for the purpose." That lighter crown was broken up immediately afterwards.

THE OLD IMPERIAL CROWN ("St. Edward's" so-called) is that whose form has been long familiar on the coin of the realm, the royal arms, etc. It was made for the coronation of Charles II., to replace that broken up, as stated. With St. Edward's Crown, the act of Coronation is performed, following historic tradition. It is of gold, and consists of two arches crossing at the top, and rising from a rim or circlet of gold, over a cap of crimson velvet, lined with white taffeta, and turned up with ermine. The base of the arches on each side is covered by a cross *pattée*; between the crosses are four *fleurs-de-lis* of gold, which rise out of the circlet; the whole of these are splendidly enriched with pearls and precious stones. On the top, at the intersection of the arches, which are somewhat depressed, are a mound and cross of gold, the latter encircled with a fillet, the former richly jewelled, and adorned with three pearls, one on the top, and one pendant at each limb.

THE PRINCE OF WALES'S CROWN, so-named, is of pure gold, unadorned by jewels. On occasions of State, it is placed before the seat occupied by the Heir Apparent in the House of Lords.

THE QUEEN'S DIADEM, or circlet of gold, was made for the Coronation of Marie d'Este, consort of James II. It is richly adorned with large diamonds, curiously set, and the upper edge of the circlet is bordered with a string of pearls.

THE QUEEN CONSORT'S CROWN is that used at Coronations when the sovereignty exists in the male branch, as on the present occasion. It is of gold, set with diamonds of great value intermixed with pearls and other costly jewels. The cap is of purple velvet, faced with ermine. Considerable alterations we believe were made in this crown for Queen Alexandra's Coronation, enhancing its worth and beauty alike. Needless to say, no two crowns are likely exactly to fit the same head; and a Queen Consort's crown is smaller—not merely officially, but in fact—than a King's. At all Coronations the crown of King or Queen, with the possible exception of the old Imperial Crown (St. Edward's), is altered in size, and sometimes also in the general setting of the jewels by the Crown Jewellers; the alterations being first of all submitted to the sovereign for his sanction and approval.

THE REGALIA.

THE IMPERIAL ORB, or MOUND (Fr. *monde*), is an emblem of sovereignty said to come from Imperial Rome; and to have been first adorned with the cross by Constantine, on his conversion to Christianity. It first appears among the royal insignia of England on the coins of Edward the Confessor; but, Strutt authenticates a picture, "made in the year 996," which represents that prince kneeling between two saints, who bear severally his sceptre and a globe, surmounted by a cross. This part of the Regalia being held; indicative of supreme political power, has never been placed in the hands of any but Kings or Queens *Regnant*. In the case of William and Mary as joint sovereigns, another orb was made, and that spare orb (so to say) is still to be seen among the royal jewels of England.

The orb is a ball of gold, 6 in. in diameter, encompassed with a band of gold, set with emeralds, rubies, and pearls. On the top is a remarkably fine amethyst, nearly 1½ in. high, which serves as the foot or pedestal of a rich cross of gold, 3¼ in. high, encrusted with diamonds; having in the centre, on one side, a sapphire, and an emerald on the other; four large pearls at the angles of the cross, a large pearl at the end of each limb, and three at the base; the height of the orb and cross being 11 in.

THE QUEEN'S ORB is of smaller dimensions but of similar fashion and materials.

We now come to the Six Sceptres. First is

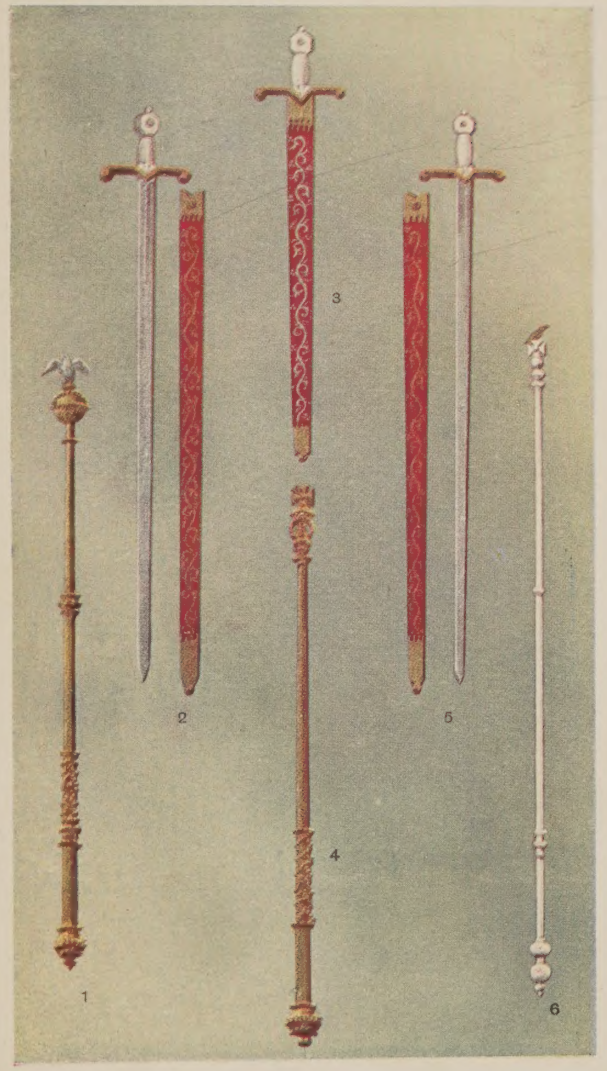
THE TEMPORAL SCEPTRE of gold, 2 ft. 9 in. in length; the staff very plain, but the pommel ornamented with rubies, emeralds, and diamonds. The *fleurs-de-lis* of France with which this sceptre was originally adorned have been replaced by golden leaves, and the rose, shamrock, and thistle. The cross is variously jewelled, and has in the centre a large diamond.

THE SPIRITUAL SCEPTRE, Rod of Equity, or Sceptre with the Dove, is also of gold, 3 ft. 7 in. long, set with diamonds and other precious stones. It is surmounted with an orb, banded with rose diamonds, bearing a cross, on which is the figure of a dove with expanded wings.

THE SCEPTRES, TEMPORAL and SPIRITUAL (William IV.), differ from the preceding, as shown in the illustration (Plate III.).

ST. EDWARD'S STAFF is a large golden rod 4 ft. 7½ in. long, with pike of steel at the lower end, about 4½ in. The staff has foliated ornaments, and a mound and cross at top. It is carried before the Sovereign in the Abbey procession.

THE QUEEN'S IVORY SCEPTRE was made for Marie d'Este, consort of James II. It is mounted in gold, and terminated by a golden cross, bearing a dove of white onyx. This sceptre has been named, but without any historical authority, the sceptre of Queen Anne Boleyn.



THE REGALIA.—3.

1. Spiritual Sceptre (William IV.). 2. Temporal Sword of Justice. 3 Sword of Mercy (Sheathed). 4. Temporal Sceptre (William IV.). 5. Sword of Spiritual Justice. 6. Ivory Sceptre (Anne Boleyn).

THE REGALIA.—4.

1. Coronation Gloves. 2. The Anointing Spoon. 3. Coronation Bracelets. 4. The Spurs. 5. The Ampulla for the Oil of Anointing.

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THE AMPULLA is an antique vessel of pure gold, used for containing the holy oil at Coronations. It resembles an eagle with expanded wings, and is finely chased; the head screws off at the middle of the neck, for pouring in the oil, and the neck being hollow to the beak, the latter serves as a spout, through which the consecrated oil is poured into—

THE ANOINTING SPOON, also of pure gold. This has four pearls in the broadest part of the handle, and the bowl of the spoon is finely chased within and without. From its extreme thinness it appears to be old; but of what date, we know not.

THE SPURS (one of which is shown in the illustration) used at Coronations, are of gold, elaborately wrought at the edges and the fastening: they have no rowels, but end in an ornamented point, being what are commonly denominated prick-spurs. Richly embroidered velvet straps were added to them for the Coronation of George IV.

THE ARMILLÆ, or BRACELETS, are of solid fine gold, chased, 1½ in. in breadth, edged with rows of pearls. They open by a hinge, and were enamelled with the rose, *fleur-de-lis*, and harp; probably the *fleur-de-lis* now altered to the thistle.

THE ROYAL SWORDS are thus named: Curtana, or the Sword of Mercy, sheathed; the Sword of Justice to the Spirituality, which is obtuse; the Sword of Justice to the Temporality, which is sharp at the point; and the Sword of State. Of these, the last alone is actually used in the Coronation, being that with which the Sovereign is girded after the anointing. The others are borne in the procession by certain great officers-of-State.

A plain Gold Ring, with a large table-ruby on which is engraved a plain or St. George's cross, is always prepared for the Coronation; but, of course, it must be newly made, or, at least, set, for each sovereign.

In the same chamber of the Jewel House with the Crowns, Sceptres, and other Regalia used in the Coronation, is a collection of Plate, formerly used at the Banquet in Westminster Hall, together with Fonts, etc. Among these are:

THE SALT-CELLARS, worth inspection for their singular form and rich workmanship. The most noticeable is the Golden Salt-cellar of State, of pure gold, richly adorned with jewels, and grotesque figures in chased-work. Its form is castellated, and it has hence been called a "model of the White Tower," to which, however, it bears a very slight resemblance: the receptacles for the salt are formed by the removal of the tops of the turrets.

There are, besides, in the Collection, two massive Coronation Tankards, of gold; a Banqueting Dish; and other dishes and spoons, of gold, used at Coronation Banquets; besides a beautifully wrought service of Sacramental Plate, used at the Coronation, and formerly also in the Chapel of St. Peter in the Tower.

A BAPTISMAL FONT of silver, gilt, tastefully chased, and surmounted with two figures, emblematic of the baptismal rite: this font was formerly used at Royal christenings; but a new font was manufactured for Queen Victoria.

THE REGALIA.

Notes on the Foregoing.

The ancient Regalia were strictly Anglo-Saxon by their traditional names: The crown of Alfred, or of St. Edward, for the King; the crown of Edith, wife of the Confessor, for the Queen.

The sceptre with the dove is said to have been typical of King Edward's peaceful days after the expulsion of the Danes.

The coronation gloves were a reminder of his abolition of the Danegelt —a token that the King's hands should be moderate in taking taxes.

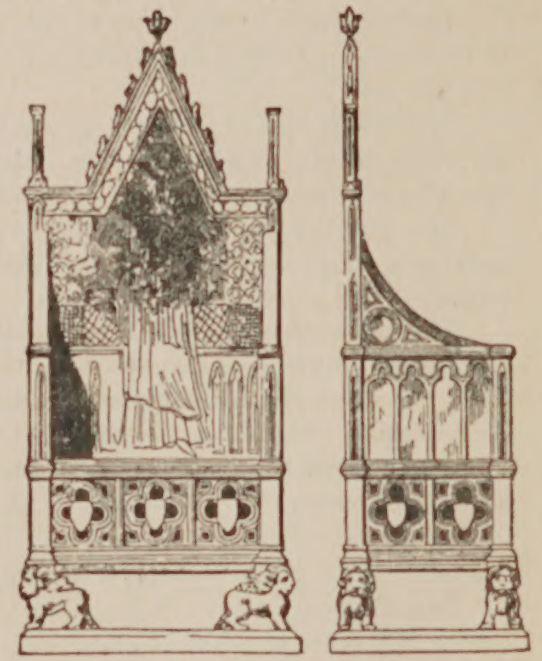
The ring with which, as the Doge to the Adriatic, so the King to his people, was wedded, was the ring of the pilgrim.

The "great stone chalice," which was borne by the Chancellor to the altar and out of which the Abbot of Westminster administered the sacramental wine, was believed to have been prized at a high sum "in Saint Edward's days."

The form of Coronation oath retained till the time of James II. was to observe "the laws of the glorious Confessor." A copy of the Gospels, purporting to have belonged to Athelstane, was the book on which, as early as the XVth century, it was believed that the Coronation oath was taken.

The ancient chair (of which we give a sketch) in which our kings are crowned, known as "The Coronation, or King Edward's, Chair," is considerably over 600 years old.

It originally came from Scone, in Scotland, whose kings had also been crowned in it. Edward I. carried it away with him in 1297, from its ancient repository in Scotland, and rendered it (along with other of the ancient Scottish regalia, the golden sceptre and crown of the number) as a solemn offering at the shrine of Edward the Confessor.



The Coronation, or King Edward's, Chair.

Ever since it has stood in the "Chapel of the Kings" (the Confessor's Chapel) of Westminster Abbey, and been known as St. Edward's Chair, being so designated in the Coronation offices. In length, it is about 6 ft. 7 in.; in breadth, at the seat, 38 in.; in depth, 24 in.; and from the seat to the bottom, 25 in. Four lions support each corner, leaving a space of 9 in. between the chair and the bottom board, within which space is enclosed a stone named "Jacob's Stone" or the "Fatal Marble Stone" which King Edward also brought out of Scotland, with the ancient charter called "Ragman's Roll."

THE REGALIA.

Innumerable legends have grown up around the Coronation Chair and the Stone of Scone. The origin of any stone being there at all appears to be traced to the primitive practice of raising the kings of Gothic and Celtic race into an elevated seat, generally of some natural stone, at the time of their crowning. On the "Kings' stone," at Kingston-on-Thames, the Anglo-Saxon sovereigns are said to have been crowned. And, in Westminster Hall, dating back from a very early period, the King, before he passed from the Palace to the Abbey, was lifted to a marble seat, some twelve feet long by three feet broad, standing at the upper end of the Hall—where the steps now lead to the House of Commons—then known as "the King's Bench."

The late Dean Stanley in his "Memorials of Westminster Abbey" tells us that "the Stone" of the Coronation Chair most probably is the "stony pillow on which Columba rested, and on which his dying head was laid in his Abbey of Iona." "If so" (adds the Dean) "it belongs to the minister of the first authentic Coronation in Christendom—the Coronation of Aidan by Columba, A.D. 571." On it Edward I. himself had been crowned King of the Scots.

In the last year of Edward's reign the "venerable chair" (we read) "which still encloses it was made for it by the order of its captor; the fragment of the world-old Celtic races was embedded in the new Plantagenet oak." A grand old legend of a famous historic chair. In so far as antiquarians have been able to collect and consider all the evidence for or against its truth, there is strong presumptive evidence that this, in fact, is none other than the famous Stone of Scone. We need not repeat the fable about this being "Jacob's stone," used as "a seat of justice" in the time of Moses! To accept of that statement is to be endowed with a measure of credulity inconceivable.

In this ancient Coronation Chair, which so many of us have looked upon, every English sovereign has been crowned. Even Cromwell was installed in it in Westminster Hall as Lord Protector, whither it was carried from the Abbey for that singular and special occasion.

When used at the Coronation it is cushioned, and covered with gold-beaten tissue, the better to disguise its time-stained and worm-eaten condition. There is also another coronation chair, similar in appearance to that described, save as to the four supporting lions, and enclosed stone, made for the use of Queen Mary II., when crowned with her consort, William of Orange. This second chair is also adorned, like the other, when brought into use for the crowning of the consort of the sovereign.

Not the least interesting of treasures belonging to the Abbey are the ancient vestments, copes, re-introduced (as some may remember) by the officiating clergy at Queen Victoria's Jubilee (1887). Some of the older copes still existing, of purple, crimson, and cloth of gold, were originally made, we believe, for the Coronation of Charles II. There is one of curious design, which is said to have been brought from Spain for the Coronation of Queen Victoria. Time, however, has wrought sad havoc on several of these once-splendid vestments. They have lost their colour, and are no longer suitable for wear. Crimson copes are, it is understood, to figure once more at the Coronation, with others of the same Royal colour, not less magnificent.

Court of Claims.

NE of the first acts preliminary to a Coronation in England is the summoning of the Court of Claims, so-named. Certain noblemen and others, are bound by tenure of inheritance, or otherwise, to perform certain services at that ceremony, and their pretensions are adjudicated upon by high political, ecclesiastical, and judicial personages whom the Sovereign nominates for such purpose.

This Court sits in the Council Chamber of the Privy Council Office, Whitehall. It assembles nearly a year before the Coronation. Up to the beginning of the last century, the Coronation had consisted of four distinct ceremonies: the assembling in Westminster Hall; the State-procession thence to the Abbey; the Religious Ceremony; and the Coronation Banquet. William IV. being ready to dispense with his Coronation altogether, matters were compromised by the omission of everything except the ceremony in the Abbey, preceded by the Procession from the Palace. Queen Victoria at one time apparently contemplated reviving all the ancient State-ceremonials; but finally it was made known that the procession from Westminster Hall to the Abbey, and the State-banquet in the Hall, would not take place. King Edward followed this example, as does his son, King George, having specially commanded that the Court of Claims should "exclude from their consideration such claims as may be submitted to them in respect of rights and services connected with the parts of the ceremonial heretofore performed in Westminster Hall and with the Procession."

It is the services associated with the omitted functions—the service of the King's Champion and many others—which possess most historic interest. The right to perform them has not ceased, but remains in abeyance until again revived, if in these times of small respect for ceremonial functions, any future Sovereign should see fit to do so. This is hardly probable, in view of the precedent created by Queen Victoria, her son, and grandson. Consequently, the duties of the Court of Claims are now not very onerous.

This "Court of Claims" had its origin in the ancient prerogative of the Lord High Steward, who sat judicially in the Hall of the King's Palace at Westminster, to receive the applications, and decide upon the claims, of all who held lands on the tenure of performing some personal service at the King's Coronation. Thus a *postmortem* inquisition, dated the VIIth year of Edward the Third (1334), refers to the tenure of the Manor of Scrivelsby Court, Lincolnshire, formerly in possession of the Dymokes, hereditary King's Champions, as follows: "That the Manor of Scrivelsby is holden by Grand Serjeantry to wit, by the service of finding on the day of Coronation an armed knight, who shall prove by his body if need be, that the King is true and rightful heir to the Kingdom."

THE REGALIA.—5

1. Salt-spoon. 2 and 3. State Salt-cellars. 4. Sacramental Flagon 5. State Salt-cellar.

THE REGALIA.—6.

1. Coronation Tankard. 2 and 3. State Salt-cellars.

COURT OF CLAIMS.

By Act of Parliament (59 George III., c. 46) the ancient trial and battle were abolished; so that the Champion's lands, after being held with manifest peril for centuries, at last became a peaceable possession of his heirs; and consequently all dispute respecting the crown fully disposed of. The last of the Dymokes in direct line, in the person of Sir Henry, died in 1865, so that there is now no hereditary King's Champion living, even if his former high and ancient office had not become obsolete—since the reign of George IV. The Manor of Scrivelsby still stands where it did; but not now held by its interesting historic tenure.

The Barony of Burghley (1571), belonging to the Marquis of Exeter, is held in right of that peer's office of Hereditary Grand Almoner, whose duties anciently were, and still are, to collect and distribute certain moneys at the Coronation from a silver dish, which the Almoner claims for his fee. He was also entitled to the cloth on which the King walked in procession from the door of Westminster Hall to the Abbey.

The office of Chief Butler at the Coronation is hereditary in the Dukes of Norfolk as Earls of Arundel.

Lordship of the Isle of Man was formerly also another tenure held of the King, by some personage presenting the Sovereign with two falcons on the day of his Coronation. The Duke of Atholl, of George III.'s time, held the manorial rights of the Island by such tenure, which dates from at least Henry IV.'s reign, if not earlier.

We were present at the Court when the Registrar of the Privy Council read out some of the petitions received, as follows:

"The Earl of Lauderdale, to carry the King's ensigns of war, as hereditary standard-bearer for Scotland.

"Henry Scrymgeour Wedderburn, to carry the Royal Standard, as hereditary standard-bearer for Scotland.

"The Walker Trustees, to exercise the office of Usher of the White Rod for Scotland by deputy.

"G. T. J. Sotheron-Estcourt, to exercise the duty of Chief Larderer, as owner of the manor of Shipton Moyne.

"The Duke of Norfolk, to act as Chief Butler of England.

"Mr. Frederick Oddin Taylor, as lord of the manor of Kenninghall, to act as Chief Butler.

"The Marquis of Exeter, to exercise the office of Almoner, as possessor of the barony of Burghley.

"The Earl of Ancaster and the Marquis of Cholmondeley, as exercising the office of Lord Great Chamberlain of England, to perform the duties and services thereof. [These claims gave rise to a trial before the House of Lords.]

"The Duke of Newcastle, as holder of the manor of Worksop, to provide a glove and support the King's arm.

"The Bishop of Durham and the Bishop of Bath and Wells, to support their Majesties at the Coronation.

"The Duke of Somerset, to carry the Orb.

COURT OF CLAIMS.

"The Earl of Erroll, to walk as Lord High Constable of Scotland, and to have a silver baton tipped with gold.

"Robert Henry Potter, nature of services not stated.

"The Dean and Chapter of Westminster, to instruct the King and Queen in the Rites and Ceremonies, and to assist the Archbishop of Canterbury, and to have cloth, etc., for fees.

"Lord Grey de Ruthyn, to carry the golden spurs.

"Lyon King of Arms and the Heralds and Pursuivants of Scotland, to be present at the Coronation.

"The Borough of Camberwell, to be represented at the Coronation.

"Colonel C. G. Brown, as baron and jurat of Fordwich, to bear the canopy over the King and Queen—a privilege accorded to the barons of the Cinque Ports."

The Registrar said that notice of other petitions had been received, including the following:

"Lord Hastings and Lord Grey de Ruthyn, to carry the great spurs.

"The scholars of St. Peter's College, Westminster (Westminster School), to be present at and take formal part in the Coronation.

"The Earl of Shrewsbury and Talbot: (1) to carry a white staff as Lord High Steward of Ireland; and (2) to provide a glove for the King's right hand and support his hand whilst holding the sceptre.

"Sir Windham Carmichael Anstruther, to exercise the office of Hereditary Grand Carver for Scotland.

"The Duke of Buccleuch, as Gold Stick for Scotland, to ride by his Majesty's carriage.

"The Marquis of Winchester, to carry the Cap of Maintenance."

We are afraid to quote a remark on these matters, which we overheard in the ante-room of the Council Chamber: "Ridiculous, but amusing!" It seemed to us that some of their lordships present were not indisposed to agree. There was a good hearty laugh from one of the peers when all was ended.

Truly, it does seem "ridiculous" that the Lord High Chancellor of England and others should be troubled to decide as to whether some distinguished gentleman is to exercise the office of "Hereditary Grand Carver for Scotland," having no baron of beef forthcoming worthy of his skill; or whether another is to carry a silver baton tipped with gold; or a third a white staff; or another is "to bear the canopy over the King and Queen"—probably to his discomfiture, since most regal canopies would require at least six or eight men to support them. However, honour to whom honour is due; and let all things be done decently and in order. We trust that every "Claim" holds good, and will be exercised on the day of King George's Coronation.

COURT OF CLAIMS.

The Council Chamber where the Court sat is more interesting than the matter related. It is of respectable antiquity. It smacks of regality, of history, and of law; topics which command interest. During a long and intimate acquaintance with London, I have met with but one person of the general public who knew this Council Chamber, and he, as a matter of course, was an American! Truly, the American knows more of London than the Londoner himself.

To satisfy a not unreasonable curiosity at this time, let us say that the Privy Council Office is within a stone's throw of the First Lord of the Treasury's official residence in Downing Street, the oldest street in Whitehall. The historic chamber itself is mostly reserved to the occasional meetings of the "Judicial Committee of the Privy Council," direct successors of the more famous—or infamous—"Star Chamber," anciently attached to the Courts at Westminster. Its reputation was such that the legend, "Abandon hope all ye who enter here," might more aptly have been inscribed over its narrow oaken doorway, than the chiselled golden star, emblem of better promise, which in fact appeared there. In the legal annals of England, no court ever earned a more evil reputation than the Star Chamber of Westminster adjoining the Abbey, if we exclude that of the Western circuit of the "Bloody Assize," presided over by Judge Jeffreys. Originally founded by Henry VIII. in the old palace of the kings at Westminster, it was continued as a court of law till the 17th year of Charles I. The judges of the court were the Privy Council. Its most famous prosecution was of Prynne, a barrister of Lincoln's Inn, by the notorious Attorney-General Noy. In the year 1641, the Star Chamber was abolished by statute. It really took the name from its ceiling of oak ornamented with golden stars.

CORONATION MEDAL OF CHARLES I.

THE KING'S PROCLAMATION OF HIS CORONATION.

PLAINLY and briefly stated, the Ceremony of the Coronation of the King at Westminster is the recognition, and confirmation in Solemn Form, of his royal descent, and consequent right of Accession. The ceremony itself is not absolutely necessary, though held essential, for the security of the title to the Crown. William IV., "the Sailor King," was willing to dispense with it. In theory, and according to ancient law of the Realm (as all know) the King never dies. "The King is dead; live the King!" The throne is never vacant.

The Coronation "at Our Palace at Westminster!" The phrase itself is almost as old as the ceremony. The noble Hall of William the Red (Westminster Hall, in which the coronation banquet was held, down to the reign of George IV.) was, students of history will remember, as "a mere bed-chamber" in comparison of that he had intended to build, as an essential part of the Palace of Westminster. The phrase, we say (see the King's Proclamation), is almost as old as the ceremony of Coronation itself, which is held to be the solemn public confirmation of the King's right.

Following the summoning of the Court of Claims, at an interval of some two or three months, comes the King's Proclamation of the Event, published in the following words, which, in that by King George V., are almost identical with those of King Edward, his father, as follows:—

"BY THE KING.

"A PROCLAMATION.

"*For appointing a Day for the Celebration of the Solemnity of the Coronation of Their Majesties.*

"GEORGE *R.I.*

"Whereas, by Our Royal Proclamation bearing date the Nineteenth day of July last. We did (amongst other things) publish and declare Our Royal intention to celebrate the Solemnity of Our Royal Coronation and of the Coronation of Our dearly beloved Consort the Queen, upon a day of June next to be thereafter determined, at Our Palace at Westminster; and whereas We have resolved by the favour and blessing of Almighty God

to celebrate the said Solemnity upon Thursday the Twenty-second day of June next, We do, by this Our Royal Proclamation, give notice thereof, and We do hereby strictly charge and command all Our loving subjects whom it may concern that all persons, of what rank or quality soever they be, who either upon Our Letters to them directed, or by reason of their offices and tenures, or otherwise, are to do any service at the time of Our Coronation, do duly give their attendance at the said Solemnity on Thursday the Twenty-second day of June next, in all respects furnished and appointed as to so great a Solemnity appertaineth and answerable to the dignities and places which every one of them respectively holdeth and enjoyeth, and of this they or any of them are not to fail, as they will answer the contrary at their peril, unless upon special reasons by Ourself under Our hand to be allowed, We shall dispense with any of their services or attendances:

"Provided always, and We do further by this Our Royal Proclamation signify and declare, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to change or alter Our Royal determination as more fully declared in Our Royal Proclamation bearing date the Nineteenth day of July last, whereby We did signify it to be Our Royal Will and Pleasure upon the occasion of this Our Coronation to dispense with that part of the Ceremonial which in times past took place in Westminster Hall, and that part thereof which consisted of the Procession.

"Given at Our Court at *Saint James's*, this Seventh day of *November*, in the Year of Our Lord One thousand nine hundred and ten, and in the First Year of Our Reign.

"God save the King."

CORONATION MEDAL OF WILLIAM AND MARY

THE CEREMONY OF THE CORONATION.

THE religious ceremonial of the Coronation is more splendid, elaborate, and emblematic in England, than in any other country of Europe. Its ritual is in the highest degree interesting, being so faithfully founded on historic precedent.

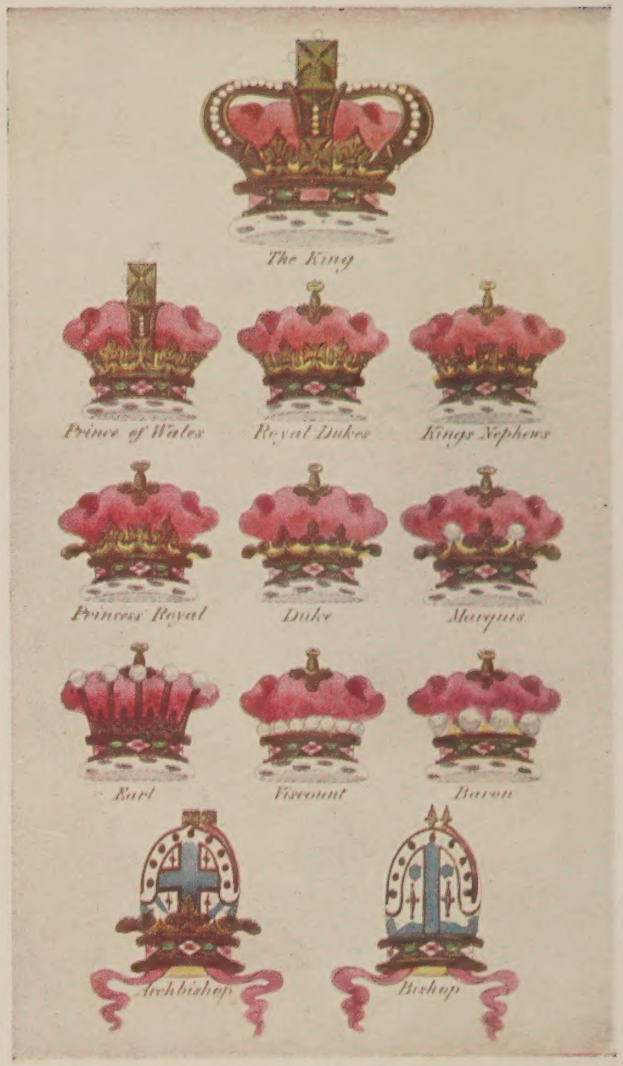
The practice of anointing, for example, has been continued for upwards of a thousand years in Britain at the Coronation of the Sovereign. Some of the forms still in use in the religious part of the ceremonies would appear to be of Judaical origin. It was declared by Thomas à Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, that "kings are anointed on the head to signify their glory; on the breast to signify their sanctity; and on the arm to declare their power." These various acts of consecration are still done by the Archbishop of Canterbury at the Coronation.

The various insignia used, elsewhere described, such as a ring to signify faithfulness, the bracelet for good works, a sceptre for justice, a sword for vengeance, the purple robes to attract reverence, the diadem to blazon glory, are all of historic interest. The word "king" (the text-books say) signifies power, or knowledge; "wherewith every sovereign should be endowed." His formal crowning, apart from the illustrious honour and dignity conferred, tends to a formal establishment of those rights which the People claim from a monarch, in return for the duty and allegiance the People are bound to render him.

There was a book in the keeping of the Abbots of Westminster, one of the most interesting of the treasures still, we believe, in custody of the Dean, named the "Liber Regalis," or "Book of the Royal Offices." Its date is of the middle years of the XIVth century. That book has furnished the precedents for the religious ceremonies of the Coronation ever since. Queen Mary I. was crowned according to the order therein set forth. Queen Elizabeth's coronation followed the same order in most respects. King James I.'s took what is known as "the new form," which, "with some alterations, has been 'the Coronation Service' in use down to the present day." The service used in 1838, at the coronation of Queen Victoria, was "edited," if we may so say—prepared might be the better word—by Archbishop Howley, who, as Primate of All England, presided at the ceremony. It is undoubtedly based on, or collated with, that used at the crowning of James II., which was also the precedent followed at the crowning of King George III. and Queen Charlotte, George IV., King William IV., and his late Majesty Edward VII.

THE REGALIA.—7.

1. Baptismal Font. 2. State Salt-cellar.



THE REGALIA.—8.

Crowns and Coronets of England.

THE CEREMONY OF THE CORONATION.

From the time of William the Conqueror, the Archbishop of Canterbury has (with three exceptions) always been the chief ecclesiastic at the Coronations; and the Bishop of London has preached the sermon. The Archbishop of York is appointed to assist.

Dean Stanley made note that, "on these occasions only, these three prelates take their places, as of right, in the Choir of the Abbey, but the Archbishop of York has been obliged to remain content with the inferior and accidental office of crowning the Queen Consort, as was originally performed by Aeldred (Archbishop of York) for Queen Matilda, two years after the Conqueror's coronation."

By 1 William and Mary, c. 61, it is enacted "that the Coronation may be performed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, or the Archbishop of York, or either of them, or any other Bishop whom the King's Majesty shall appoint." The claim of the Archbishop of Canterbury to preside at the marriage of Royalty (it may be noted) rests on the theory that the kings and queens of England are "parishioners" of the see of Canterbury.

As indicating the close connection that has always existed between the Crown and Westminster Abbey, it may be mentioned that the Coronation to this day—it was so in times when Tudor and Stuart came to the throne, and is so now when George the Fifth is to be crowned—is said to take place at "Our Palace at Westminster," of which the Abbey-Church of St. Peter formed part.

On the floor of the centre aisle of the Abbey a slightly raised platform, or carpeted way, is laid down, along which the King's and Queen's Procession passes to the Choir from the great West door. This is covered with crimson cloth. On the pavement of the aisle itself, bordering this carpeted way, stand the military told off to keep the line of the Procession clear.

The "Theatre," so-named in official archives, where the principal parts of the opening ceremony are enacted, lies immediately under the central tower of the Abbey, and is in fact a square, formed by the intersection of the choir and transepts, extending nearly the whole breadth of the choir. On this square a platform is erected, ascended by five steps. The summit of this platform, and also the highest step leading to it, is covered with richest cloth of gold. From that step, down to the flooring of the "Theatre," all is covered with a carpet of rich red or purple colour, bordered with gold. In the centre of this "Theatre," the sumptuously draped chair is placed for the Sovereign, in which he receives the

homage of the peers; and a little aside from it another for the Queen Consort. At the north-east end of this "Theatre" a pulpit in former time was erected from which the Coronation sermon was preached.

In the sacrarium, which forms part of the altar-space, the Coronation chairs stand—the ancient chair known as King Edward's, and that of later date known as Queen Mary's. It is here the King and Queen are crowned.

Right of the altar, looking towards it, accommodation is provided for members of the Royal Family; and on the left a bench is provided for the Bishops, while near them in a kind of low gallery or "box" are ranged the Foreign Ambassadors and special envoys. The back of the altar itself is draped with purple and gold silks; and the floor of the sacrarium is covered with a rich purple and gold carpet. Above the altar in time past were the galleries reserved to the members of the House of Commons; but this arrangement is hardly likely now.

In the Choir itself, all the ordinary stalls, reading-desks, and pews are removed. In their places are erected, on each side of the Choir, rows of benches, covered with scarlet drapery and gold, reserved as seats for the great officers of State and Household. To the peers and peeresses were usually allotted galleries in the transepts, north and south, where they sit in all the glittering pomp of velvet and ermine.

According to ancient usage, the Procession from the West door of the Abbey to the Choir was thus marshalled:—

The Prebendaries of Westminster.
The Very Reverend the Dean.
Pursuivants.
Heralds.
Gentleman Ushers to the King.

Sergeants-at-Arms.

Equerries-in-Waiting on the King.
The Comptroller of His Majesty's Household.

Grooms-in-Waiting on the King.
The Treasurer of His Majesty's Household [bearing the crimson bag with the Coronation Medals], attended by two gentlemen.

Sergeants-at-Arms.

Private Secretary to the King.
The Vice-Chamberlain, acting for the Lord Chamberlain of His Majesty's Household, attended by an officer of the Crown Jewels Office, bearing on a cushion the Ruby Ring and Sword of the King.
The Lord Privy Seal.

The Keeper of the Privy Purse.
The Lord Steward of His Majesty's Household.

The Lord President of the Council.

The Lord Chancellor of Ireland, attended by his Purse-bearer.
The Lord Archbishop of Armagh.
The Lord Archbishop of York.
The Lord High Chancellor, attended by his Purse-bearer.
The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury.
The Princesses of the Blood Royal in their Robes of State, each attended by a Lady and Gentleman of their Household.

THE REGALIA OF THE SOVEREIGN.

St. Edward's Staff, borne by a Peer.

The Golden Spurs, borne by a Peer.

The Sceptre with the Cross, borne by a Peer.

The Third Sword, borne by a Peer.

Curtana, or Sword of Mercy, borne by a Peer.

The Second Sword, borne by a Peer.

Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod.

The Queen Consort's Regalia.

Garter Principal King at Arms.

The Lord Great Chamberlain of England.
The Princes of the Blood Royal in their Robes of State, each attended by two Gentlemen of their Household.

The High Constable of Ireland.

The High Constable of Scotland.

The Earl Marshal of England.

The Sword of State, borne by a Peer.

The Lord High Constable of England.

The Sceptre with the Dove, borne by a Peer.

St. Edward's Crown, borne by the Lord High Steward.

The Orb, borne by a Peer.

The Patina, borne by a Bishop.

The Bible, borne by a Bishop.

The Chalice, borne by a Bishop.

THE CEREMONY OF THE CORONATION.

THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY,
in his
Royal Robe
or Mantle of
Crimson Velvet
furred with Ermine
and bordered with
Gold Lace,
accompanied by
Her Majesty
THE QUEEN CONSORT,
in her Royal Robes
of Purple Velvet
turned up with Ermine,
and wearing a circlet of gold
adorned with jewels.
The trains in each case
borne by Ladies and Gentlemen
of the Royal Household.
Gentlemen-in-Waiting on the King.
Ladies-in-Waiting on the Queen.
The Lord Chamberlain.

The Gentlemen-at-Arms with their Standard Bearer.

The Bishop of Bath and Wells.

The Bishop of Durham.

The Honourable Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms with their Lieutenant.

The Gold Stick-in-Waiting.

The Master of the Horse.

The Captain-General of the Royal Archer Guard of Scotland.

The Captain of the Yeomen of the Guard.

The Captain of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms.

Ensign of the Yeomen of the Guard.

Lieutenant of the Yeomen of the Guard.

Clerk of the Cheque.

Exons of the Yeomen of the Guard.

Yeomen of the Guard.

Exons of the Yeomen of the Guard.

Twenty Yeomen of the Guard.